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L I F E

OF THE

MARESCHAL DUKE OF RICHELIEU.

FAVOURITE OF LOUIS XIV. & XV.

COMPRISING
AN INTERESTING PERIOD OF EIGHTY YEARS; INTERSPERSED WITH HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL REMARKS AND ANECDOTES OF THE COURT, DURING THE REIGN OF THOSE MONARCHS: WITH AUTHENTIC LETTERS FROM LOUIS XV. CARDINAL DE FLEURY, MADAME DE POMPADOUR, &c. AND THE DUKE'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE KING'S MINISTERS, DURING HIS IMPORTANT SERVICES AT VIENNA, GENOA, AND MINORCA.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH EDITION,

PUBLISHED IN 1791.

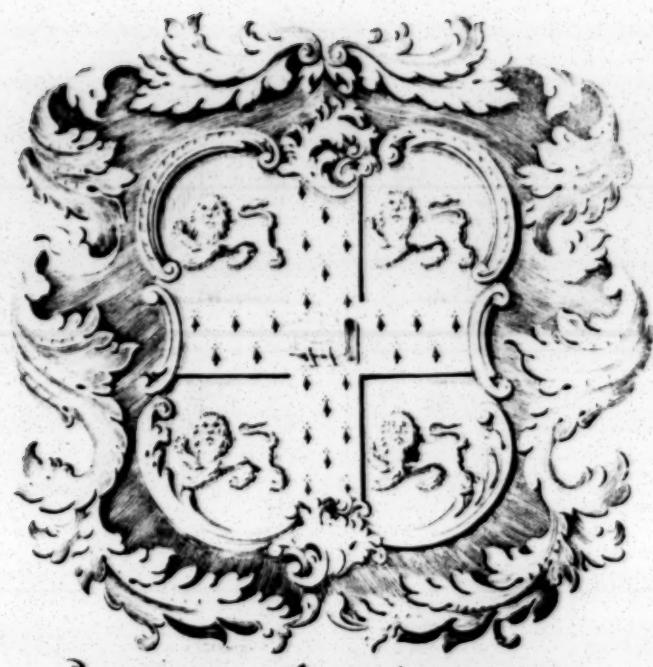
IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOLUME I.

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P R E F A C E.

THE TRANSLATOR of this WORK, laboring under a heavy pressure of misfortune, and seeking to occupy a mind, devoted formerly to more important avocations, having observed in the European Magazine for 1790, a comment passed on the original in French, by the English Reviewers of that year, was induced to fill up the vacuum, which, a separation from public employment created, by undertaking this translation.

A COPY of that comment is given verbatim, with the view of presenting to the reader, an immediate sketch or picture of the active life and character of the celebrated Personage, whose history is detailed, and who closed the scene of a brilliant career, at the advanced age of ninety-two years,

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in August, 1788; an æra rendered memorable by the Revolution, which took place in France.

IN it the reflecting mind will perceive a great change in the opinions of men, and a striking contrast betwixt the manners that prevailed e're that important juncture, and those which have since been adopted. It will see throughout the Duke's public functions, the most implicit devotion to the will of majesty, founded on an enthusiastic idea of the power of monarchs, and the unlimited obedience due from the subject to the supreme power. The reader will remark a systematical abuse in government; Kings, a prey to sloth and indolence, reposing in the lap of luxury, and abandoning their authority to the profligacy of a corrupt junto, while these acknowledged the sway of some favorite mistreses, who for the moment reigned, and to whose car was attached a train of servile courtiers, perpetuating and enforcing their master's despotism.

OBSERVATIONS of this nature will serve to unravel the immense change which followed. The mind overawed by the terrors of Kingly Power, and perverted by a mistaken religious sense of that sacredness, which enrobed their persons, could not, without being totally absorbed in such errors, long

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endure to reflect on the miseries, which this ~~evil~~
diffused.—The pens of Voltaire, Rousseau, L'Abbé Raynal, Beaumarchais, Linguet, Condorcet, and De la Chalotais were usefully employed ; and the French, groaning under an unremitting tyranny, the political maxims of which must sooner or later be defeated, sought a glorious emancipation ; the effect of which would have commanded the applause of surrounding nations, had not a gloom been cast over it's beauty by the barbarity with which it was conducted and established.

" THE Mareschal de Richelieu, was born the 13th of March, 1696. Notwithstanding the great age to which he lived, he was, when an infant, of a weak and delicate constitution. He was yet a child when he first appeared at Court : Madame de Maintenon usually gave him the names of Poupée and Bijou, and Louis XIV. shewed him many kindnesses. In 1711, he was married to Mademoiselle de Noailles : but this did not prevent his playing many mad pranks : one of these, the object of which was the Dutchess of Burgundy, was of such a nature, that his father requested the King to send him to the Bastille, to which place he himself conducted him."

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" THE favour of Madame de Maintenon, however, soon procured him his liberty, and he was sent to the army to Mareschal de Villars, who appointed him one of his Aides-de-camp. In this capacity he served at the siege of Fribourg, where he was wounded. On the 15th of March, 1718, he was appointed Colonel of a regiment which bore his name; and in the same year he revisited the Bastille, being suspected by the Regent, of having taken a part in the conspiracy of the Prince de Cellamare."

" IN December, 1720, the Duke de Richelieu was elected a Member of the French Academy, in the place of the Marquis Dangeau. IN 1722, he was made Governor of Coignac; and in 1724, appointed Ambassador to the Court of Vienna. Too amiable not to please the German ladies, and displease their husbands, to the revenge of the latter we may ascribe a circumstance which led him to quit the Empire. The Duke gave an entertainment one night in a garden. This was represented to the credulous and pious Emperor Charles VI. as a very dangerous and wicked assembly, the intent of which was to offer a sacrifice to the moon, and enter into a compact with the devil. In these orgies, no doubt, the company sacrificed to Bac-

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chus, and perhaps to Venus ; but the moon and the devil were probably little thought of. The Emperor, however, made a complaint, and the Duke thought proper to resign his embassy."

"ON the first of January, 1728, the Duke was created a Chevalier of the King's Orders. In 1733 he made a campaign with his regiment, and assisted at the siege and taking of Fort Kehl. Having been a widower ever since the year 1716, Voltaire proposed to him an union with the Princess Elizabeth Sophia, of Guise-Lorraine, and negotiated the marriage, which took place at the beginning of the year 1734. Immediately after the nuptials were celebrated, the Duke rejoined the army, which was about to attack Philipsburg. On the 20th of Sept. in the same year, he was appointed a Brigadier. In 1735, he served on the Rhine ; and after peace was concluded, was made Camp Mareschal, on the 1st of March, 1738. A few days after, he was given the Lieutenant-Generalship of the government of Languedoc, with the command of that Province."

"WAR having again broken out in 1741, he served in his proper rank, and in 1744, was appointed First Gentleman of the King's chamber.

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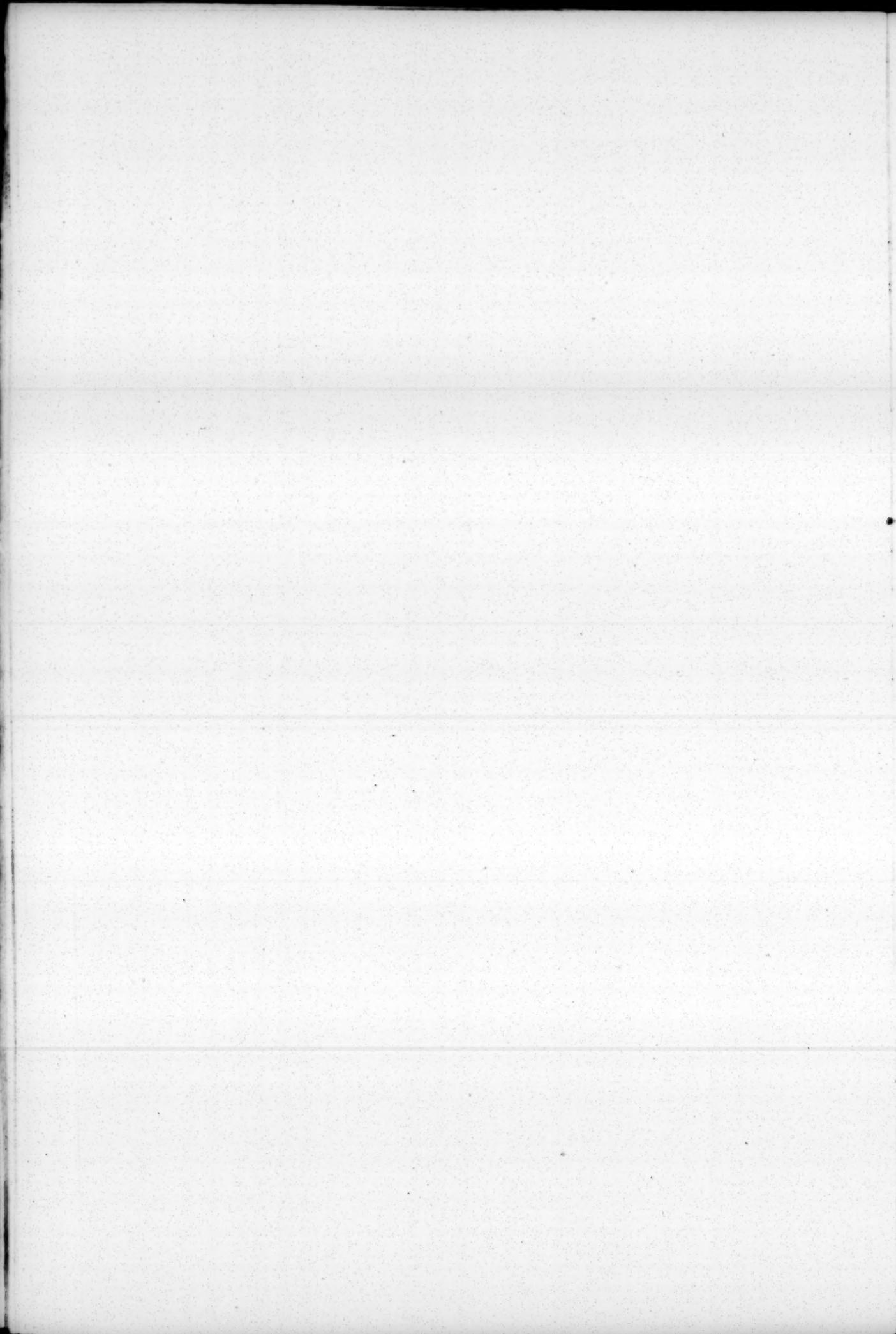
On the 2d of May, he was made a Lieutenant General, and attended the King in Flanders, and on the Rhine, as his Aid-de-camp. In 1745, he attended the King in the Netherlands, and was present at the battle of Fontenoy. In December, 1746, the Duke was sent to Dresden, with the title of Ambassador Extraordinary, to negotiate the marriage of the Dauphin with the daughter of Augustus III. The following year he succeeded the Duke de Boufflers, at Genoa, which he held till the 30th of April, 1748, when the preliminaries of peace were signed. On the 11th October, he was promoted to the rank of Mareschal of France."

" IN June, 1750, the Duke resigned the government of Coignac, and in 1755, the Lieutenant Generalship and command of Languedoc. In return, the government and command of Guienne and Gascony were bestowed on him. In 1756, he was charged with the conquest of Minorca; and in 1757, he was appointed to succeed in Germany, the Mareschal d'Estrées, who had just gained the battle of Hasteimbeck. In January, 1748, he was replaced by the Count de Clermont, a Prince of the blood."

" HERE terminated the military career of the Mareschal. His time he divided between Paris,

his government of Guienne, and the Court. His second wife having died in the year 1740, he married in 1780, the widow of M. de Rothe. She was of an ancient and noble family of Lorraine, of the name of Lavaux de Sommecourt. After a long and active life, he quited the scene on the 8th of August, 1788."

"THE Mareschal de Richelieu, long celebrated for the agreeable qualities of his mind and person, his gallantry, and his talents as a Courtier, was styled by Voltaire, the French Alcibiades. His accomplishments and brilliant actions rank him amongst the celebrated men of the age. He could not be deemed a great General; but his contemporaries always considered him as well calculated to succeed in enterprizes that required courage, activity, and resolution. He was one of those ardent minds, that over leap the greatest obstacles without stopping at, or even considering them."





CHAP. I.

*OF THE DUKE'S BIRTH—MARRIAGE—PRESENTATION AT
COURT—GALLANTRIES—IMPRISONMENT—AND THE
EVENT OF HIS FIRST CAMPAIGN, UNDER THE TUI-
TION OF THAT EXPERIENCED GENERAL, VILLIERS.*

LEWIS Francis Armand du Plessis, Duke of Richelieu, was born the 13th of March, 1696. His Mother, of the ancient family of Assigné, in Britanny, laboring under a severe cough, brought him into the world in the seventh month of

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her pregnancy, and was the only one of his Father's wives by whom he had any children. His birth, though considered as a divine favour, yet, from weakness of constitution, gave no hope to his parents, of enjoying the blessing long; nature however prevailed, and by a happy crisis in her struggles, effected that change in favour of the person, whom she destined to play so considerable a part.

IN 1699, he was baptized; and the King and Duchess of Burgundy, through the influence of Madam de Maintenon, stood his Sponsors. This Lady, when married to Scarron, acknowledged obligations to the Duke's Father, and readily at this juncture of her fortune, undertook to be the patroness of his Son.

OF his Education, little is known. His Father unable either to instruct, or superintend it, left him to the care of a Tutor, addicted to play and wine, who soon initited his pupil in the same vices; and we have the Duke's confession, that not till his first confinement in the Bastile, had the necessity of studying made any impression on his mind.

His Mother dying, the Duke's Father married the rich Widow of the Marquis de Noailles, whose maiden name was Rouillé, daughter of a Counselor

lor of State. This woman, of an avaricious disposition and arrogating the rights of a Mother, curtailed the Duke in his expences, to induce an alliance, between him, and an only daughter of her first marriage. Infinitely gifted with the art of conciliating, the Duke obtained a large settlement of her fortune in his favor, notwithstanding his marked neglect to herself and daughter.

HER authority in the family was absolute, and her principles of œconomy being established on a solid foundation, acquired her the merit of retrieving the estate of many debts it was burthened with.

THE Duke was compelled into a marriage with her daughter before the age of consummation, and on his wedding was presented to Lewis the XIV. His introduction was flattering and attended with eclat. The King, inspired with gratitude for the memory of his uncle, received him with the most distinguished approbation; and his god-mother the Dutchess of Burgundy, with equal favor. Madam de Maintenon honoured him with the appellation of her pupil; and all the offices at court being in the possession of the Noailles's, they strove who should be most forward in the applause of their

young relation, whose appearance, at that early age, indicated great rising expectations.

IN the circle of women of which the court was composed, he was soon initiated; and nature having been lavish of her bounty, gave him a pre-eminence in early feats of manhood.

WITH this passion for the sex, was united that for play. He contracted heavy debts; and his family joined with Madam de Maintenon in remonstrances that were ineffectual. They consulted, and the result was, that a loose should be given to the former by allowing of domestic cohabitation. In this, they were deceived. The Duke, forced into a vow his heart disdained, was resolved to respect his wife, but to abstain, for ever, from all sensual connection.

HIS choice fixed on the Dutches of ***. Of this amour, these asterisks are the only indication. But however ardent his passion, it met with no restriction in others. His course was dissolute, and plunged him into every excess.

ACCUSTOMED to no obstacle in his pursuits, he conceived the attention shewn him by the Dutches of Burgundy, afforded a favourable issue to his views. Of his love for that Princess, and the

Dutches

Duchess of * * *, the manuscript left behind him, gives an ample detail.

IN the mean while, the effects of calumny operating, his family dreaded the report, injurious to the Duchess's reputation, would reach the King's ears; and with their faithful confident Madam de Maintenon, caused a decision, to apply to the Monarch to punish, as a father, the young Duke's folly and presumption.

MADAM de Maintenon's Proposal was flattering to the Father and Mother. The former envious of the pleasures the Son enjoyed, and in which he no longer could participate, of a timid character, embarrassed in his circumstances, and apprehending a diminution of the Monarch's good graces, soon gave his concurrence; and the latter was incited, through gratification of resentment for the Duke's obstinacy of conduct to her Daughter.

IN the midst of this dissipation, beloved by the Duchess of ***, notwithstanding his infidelity with others by whom he was adored, the young Duke, not suspecting the storm preparing for him, was suddenly by an order of Court, easily obtained, transferred to the Bastille.

THE year 1711, was the first of his imprisonment in this celebrated fortress; and however he felt for his separation from those to whom he was so warmly attached, he in the end taught himself the virtue, which is dictated by necessity.

BUT in the commencement, treated as a state criminal, forbidden all communication, with the liberty of walking on the terrace, he gave himself up to despair; from which, he was relieved by the good counsels of the Abbé St. Remy, who voluntarily partaking of his confinement, inspired him with a desire of application, and enabled him to go through a translation of Virgil, and other studies, which the Duke found of great benefit in the future parts of his life.

SO quick a transition from the pleasures of a Court, to the dullness and rigor of a prison caused an alteration in his health.—The small Pox attacked him, and with it a Fever that threatened his existence. But youth, and able advice soon delivered him of the danger.

ON his recovery, the design of the Mother in procuring his confinement was attempted, to be put in execution without success.—The Duke received his Wife with attention and respect; but however inflamed through a long privation, and excited by personal charms, and every allurement that a just hope,

hope, in a wife, could create, he was invincible; and conducting her to the door, with those marks of undeviating regard, dismissed her, with the shame and grief, of having suffered herself to be persuaded by her parents into a step, she felt cause to regret.

WHAT judgement could be formed of such an act of restraint imposed on his passions, by a young man of sixteen. Bent to a rigid adherence of his original determination, it was in vain longer to hope to subjugate a spirit, proof to such temptation. An order therefore for his release was given, accompanied by directions to repair to the army, where his first essay in arms, was in a participation in the battle of Denain, gained by Villars; a victory justly considered, as the salvation of his country.

IT was time that such an event should occur to dispel the melancholy that reigned in the nation, the consequence of a long disastrous war, and of the premature fate that had attended the Royal Family, in the death of the Dauphin and Dauphiness, with their son the Duke of Britanny, leaving in the person of a child, afterwards Lewis the XV. the only hope of lineal succession to the Throne. Of the Dauphin's reign, the greatest expectations had been formed. That Prince had early expressed his disapprobation

probation of the state of the government, and in the face of a Monarch so despotic, had not hesitated to avow those noble sentiments, "that a king was a king, for his subjects, and not those subjects formed for a base and implicit subserviency to a monarch's will." So new a doctrine to a nation, so completely enslaved since by Richelieu, and void of every principle of action, however sensible of the privileges their ancestors had to that period transmitted unimpaired, could not fail of rendering the Prince the idol of the people. He was every where adored, and promised a golden reign, by the example he set in his own person, and the freedom of his declarations.

PROVIDENCE frustrated the realization of such great hopes. France was yet to groan under it's iron scepter; and had no prospect of deliverance, from the miserable existing tyranny, but in efforts that a nation, sunk into the most abject despotism were incapable of then exerting.

THE news of the battle gained by Villars, diffused a ray of hope. The Duke distinguished by his personal valor, attached himself to a profession, he felt an inclination to succeed in. Chosen by the general to attend on him in person, he had the benefit of his lessons, and early inculcated that caution

caution, so conspicuous in Villars, which almost constantly had ensured his success. In the Duke's attention to his department, he seemed to have forgotten Paris and the Court, though he maintained secretly a lively correspondence with his favorite, the Dutchess of ***.

THE sieges of Marchiennes, Douay, and Quesnoi, followed the victory of Denain. They succinctly fell; and the Duke, although wounded in the head, by the splinter of a shell at Fribourg, was selected by the conqueror to carry the news of these acquisitions to the monarch. Arrived at Court, the presence of the King, whom our young hero had not seen since his enlargement from the Bastile, impressed him with timidity; but collecting himself, he proceeded in giving to the King a detail of the sequel of the operations, in so neat and well arranged a manner, as to cause that discerning monarch to predict his military renown.

RETURNED to the center of his pleasures, he flew to the Dutchess of ***, but finding her inexorable to other connection than platonic sentiment, he hastened in accommodating himself; and

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in this instance, chance directed his steps to an Upholsterer's Wife, with whom, through resistance, partly caused by a profound sense of religion, he actually fell in love; and drove to that despair of occasioning her death, when to gratification, as in most of his amours, quickly followed abandonment.

His vanity was pushed to that excess, as to use no discretion in celebrating those by whom he had been favored. Very few indeed existed that were not known; and to excite the envy of his associates, less fortunate in gallant reputation than himself, he often caused his carriage, and servants pompously to parade in those streets, where his intrigues were suspected; and that, when nature was serving her exhausted favorite, in restoring him by repose. To this constant and unceasing appearance of gallantry, many young men, his intimates, fell, in their career, the mistaken victims.

CHAP. II.

OF HIS FATHER'S DEATH—FAVORITE OF THE DUTCHESS OF ***,—THE PRINCESS OF *** BECOMES IN LOVE WITH HIM—ATTEMPTS TO SURMOUNT HER INCLINATION—JEALOUSY OF THE PRINCE—DUEL—THE PRINCESS DIES THROUGH REGRET OF HER WEAKNESS ACCELERATING HER DEATH BY POISON.—THE DUKE SURPRISES HIS WIFE, IN A TETE A TETE, WITH A GENTLEMAN OF HIS HOUSEHOLD—NOTICE HE TOOK OF IT—DEATH OF THE SAID DUTCHESS.

IN the midst of his pleasures, the Duke had to mourn the loss of his Father, whose death on the 10th of May, 1715, left him in the full enjoyment of his liberty. They had for sometime been at variance, a loss of the son's at play of one thousand Louis's, had augmented the Father's displeasure, and rendered him more intent on curtailing the Duke's exigencies. The Father, we have already observed, was fond and delighted in his Son, in his youth. Yet grown up, he censured his resorting to the compa-

ny of those of his age in preference to his own. On the other hand the son felt irritated against his Father for checking his means; and ascribing to him his confinement, their separation in what regarded each other, was a happy circumstance.

HE found his Father's affairs so embarrassed, that he was obliged to relinquish every part of the inheritance, excepting the estates entailed by his ancestor the Cardinal. These devolved to him disencumbered; they consisted of the ducal lands of Richelieu, Fronsac, and other signorial possessions of Ferté Barnard, Cosse, Lenac, &c. And out of the revenue of these, when he found the personal property insufficient, much to his honor, he liquidated totally the debts incurred by his Father. In the Duke's opinion, a man of his rank owed something to the memory of a father, and notwithstanding his love of money and the example of many, he considered it dishonorable to avail himself of what the law authorized, to the prejudice of merchants, tradesmen, and old servants, to whom, by will, his parent had been bountiful.

THE Father of the deceased had succeeded to a very considerable inheritance. The first Duke of Richelieu, whose heir he was, had realized the greatest

greatest portion of the immense funds left by the Cardinal his uncle. His profusion soon dissipated them, and even obliged him to sell many lands not comprehended in the entail of his son. Our Duke's father had been equally irregular in his conduct. In 1643, in his Father's life time, he had been vested with the post of General of the Galleys, and to the prejudice of his descendants, with the lands he sold, he disposed of this trust to the Marquis of Crequi, since Marechal of France. The Cardinal's foresight was fortunate for the young Duke; otherwise, by the extravagance of the intervening Dukes, he would have been seized with an income very inadequate to the splendor of his rank and title. — His Father's prodigality was dispersed amongst the sex, and these of so low a condition, that no honor accrued to him. His estates were vested in trust, and himself reduced to living in the country, in his magnificent castle of Richelieu, upon a narrow subsistence allowed him. Upon Madam de Maintenon's coming into favor, he returned to Paris, where contracting fresh incumbrances, he had recourse, and succeeded through her influence, in obtaining pecuniary aid from the Monarch.

THE public were at a loss to ascertain the motive that could induce the King to confer on him such marks of favor, having deserved no attention for his military exploits. It was a doubt, if he had even signalized himself in the rank of Colonel, in any campaign of the many that occurred during that monarch's reign. He possessed no individual merit; yet before the height of favor of Madam de Maintenon, he was singularly favored by his Majesty, and received into his orders. The natural inference is, that the King considered more the name he bore, than the intrinsic worth and ability of the man, and rewarded in him the services rendered by his great uncle the Cardinal.

THE young Duke, sensible that his father had failed in transmitting the glory of the name he bore unfaded to posterity, was resolved by some brilliant action that it should renovate in him. Accordingly, he is found in the field of action the foremost in danger, equally hazardous and daring in single combat, and braving the greatest risque to his person with the same ease and intrepidity as would attend his pursuit in the conquest of a pretty woman. He constantly exposed a life fraught with every charm, and never deemed the blessings of

of health and fortune, so eminent in him, as any consideration, to restrain his ardor and desire of renown.

Soon fatigued with the minutiae of his inheritance, he quitted that inspection to devote his time to that passion, which with him exercised so unbounded a sway.

In the attention he paid to the Princess of ***, he soon regained the time he had pronounced mispent. To this Lady, for the moment, he appeared to give a preference. The Duchess of***, likewise received his homage, and in the notes of his life, he assumes merit to himself, that at this period a reform in his conduct had taken place; owing to two mistresses only occupying his thoughts. It was a maxim with him not to pursue at one time one object alone; others also engaged him, and thus he awaited patiently the moment of subduing that he principally had in view.

THE description he has given of the Princess of ***, represents her as a perfect beauty, married to a man capricious and whimsical, she had to endure at first, the punishment of the vow he had made to his mistress, of estranging himself from his wife. Her charms and fondness for him, however, prevailed

prevailed. In two months, he ceded those rights acquired; but soon satiated with domestic felicity, the mistress resumed her ascendancy. It was in vain, every art practised, could not reclaim the wanderer. Two years elapsed, and no one suspected the want of harmony. In appearance, no husband conducted himself better; at her door, every morning to enquire of her health, and in publick, often manifesting signs of the most passionate affection. It was impossible such tyranny could last long. In a young woman of twenty years, such insensibility could not exist, and it was time for her to alienate that heart, from one regardless of its value.

THE Duke was introduced to her at the Dutchesse of * * *. Beauty in distress was a spur to excite in him the hope of conquest;—he found the Princess in the moment that nature in a youthful mind exerts her influence, she had a heart to bestow, no one to participate of it, and a dreadful vacuum assailed her. Richlieu presented himself with that respect, obsequiousness, and power to seduce, that soon drew a comparison between him and the Prince; the preference easily may be judged. Every gloom was soon dispelled, and leaving no opportunity

tunity unsought, he discerned the impression, and triumphed before even the Princess could accuse herself of the complete revolution in her mind.

Few could so long have resisted such unceasing solicitation. In vain did the Princess attempt to wean herself from the inclination that daily she felt more powerful, by entreating of her husband to dedicate some time to the country ; and when this did not avail, by desisting from visiting at her friend the Dutches's. The father, ignorant of the motive, persuades her return, plunges her into the danger she wished to avoid; she yields, and yielding, comforts herself, it is the effect of destiny.

RICHELIEU relates, with great pleasantry, this adventure, in which vanity more than inclination reigned; the more ardor the Princess betrayed, the more indifference he shewed; and herself, amongst the rest, soon found, she had fallen a victim to his false protestations, by the effect of that caprice which governs nature. The Prince soon after separated from his mistress, and flew with rapture to his wife. With astonishment she received him, but considering it only as a momentary transition, did not notice it, till his assiduities becoming constant, she could

no longer display to him that heart he had fondly imagined he continued in the complete possession of. She then reflected on the criminality of her conduct; for to the lover was granted in full, what before had exclusively been the husband's.

THE Prince surprized in meeting with a disposition so altered, ascribed the change to a natural resentment of his past conduct; and satisfied, that women either angry or piqued, from neglect experienced, are yet to be regained, he spared no means to soften her into forgetfulness. Despairing however personally to effect it, he tried the mediation of friends, and addressed his entreaties even to Richelieu. Failing in every endeavor, jealousy assumed her empire. He watched his wife, and his vigilance soon discovered that he had a rival in her affections. This was the Duke. A furious encounter ensued; both were wounded; and the Princess through regret, shortly after, poisoned herself.

He felt not much affected by these events, however fatal; neither did they operate as any future restraint. The enjoyment of the moment was what he sacrificed to, and in the company of the Dutches of ***, always tender and attached to him, he met, for some months, such consolation as effaced every idea of the past.

AT this period of his life, Mademoiselle de Noailles, his nominal wife, died. He esteemed her for the goodness of her disposition ; she was kind, tranquil, and cheerful ; and never interrupted or opposed the Duke in any of his inclinations. After persevering for two years in a hope of subduing his resolution, she became more reserved, trusting in an apparent indifference to effect what attachment could not. But the Duke was not to be judged by the common standard of mankind ; all women whose pretensions entitled them to adoration, received his homage, his wife alone excepted ; the vow he had made, neither moral tie or influence could infringe ; he had prescribed it as a law to himself, and it was irrevocable. Madame de Richelieu at length felt humiliated in the want of success in the endeavor practised ; she sought for some other object more worthy of her regard. Youth and nature combined to convince her of the necessity of such relief, and chance luckily directed it to a person by station under her immediate command.

THE Duke had for his master of the horse, a young man, handsome, amiable ; and tho' not possessing the seducing qualifications of his master, yet of a figure portending every disposition to love.

Sensible of the Duke's neglect, he had long tried to ingratiate himself with the Duchess. He presented himself every day to receive her orders, and his eyes, expressive of his sentiments, soon communicated his passion to the Duchess. She felt a pleasure in seeing that she was beloved, and long enjoyed his embarrassment in avowing it. The step, however, must be taken, and the Duchess, aware of the necessity of encouraging a young man so rejoiced from her, imparted her discontent of the various intrigues in which her husband had engaged. They succeeded to the wonder expressed of so fine a woman being abandoned. Their interests grew mutual, as their interviews increased; and the Duke, confident he was born a gentleman, persuaded herself, titles were not requisite to demonstrate that power of attachment, which nature has bestowed.

THEIR happiness was of long duration, and excited no suspicion; notwithstanding the inferiority of his rank, she considered him more than equal to a Peer of France, who neglected her. He was under her entire control, inhabiting the same roof, a signal brought him or dismissed him from her presence; and the humble servant of herself and husband, the Duchess delighted in pursuing an inclination, which it was so constantly and readily in her power to gratify.

gratify. The Duke, intent on his own avocations, and satisfied that the Duchess's endeavours to reclaim him had ceased did not notice the connection formed. In the societies he mixed, he frequently professed his astonishment, that under so severe a domestic penance, Madame de Richelieu could preserve her conjugal vow. He jocosely solicited of his friends to console her, yet felt an innate pride, that a woman who bore his name, maintained a spotless reputation.

The illusion soon vanished.

ONE of his confidants, proud of his master's favor, and ever well received from the intelligence afforded, discovered to him, that he enjoyed the pleasure gratis, which he boastingly laid, he would give one hundred Louis to know, in reality. The Duke pressing for an explanation, was informed of every particular regarding the intrigue that prevailed; and the confidant, to comfort him the more, added, he was not certain, whether Messrs. de Formaçon, Bussy, and Rohan, had not preceded his master of the horse.

THE Duke forced a laugh, confessed nothing was more natural, though chagrined at the selection made. In this alone he felt humbled. A man destined to superintend horses and grooms,

grooms, to be the substitute of one of his rank, was mortifying. Had the whole Court engaged her attention it would in his opinion have been preferable.—He could form no idea of a woman of quality descending to such a choice! Nevertheless regarding the matter of itself as of no signification whatever, he announced to the circle of his friends pleasantly the circumstance, and every where dubbed the favorite by the appellation of “the husband to his wife;” and after her death, thanking him for his attention, he wittily observed, it was incumbent on him to pay his salary double, even to pension him, who had been his representative.

ONE day, returning home sooner than was his custom, and what was more extraordinary in him, going to his wife's apartment to communicate with her on the subject of a law-suit, he found no one to intimate his approach. It was in the summer, about six in the evening: the weather was hot and most of the Dutchess's servants were assembled in the Court yard, enjoying the freshness of the air. Astonished at no one being there to announce him, he passed through the bed chamber, and opening gently the door of the Dutchess's closet, he espied the Master of the Horse with her, in the enjoyment of a close conversation. Not perceiving to disturb

disturb them, he pulled the door to him without noise, went into the antichamber, and there loudly summoning the servants to attend, gave full time, by the clamor of his voice in upbraiding their neglect, to arrange for his reception; he then presented himself; the Dutchess sitting on a canopy, the Master of the Horse standing near the window.

“ Madam,” said the Duke, “ your people are unworthy of such service; they deserve to be corrected; not one in attendance to give notice of my visit; consider how much, by such conduct, you may be incommoded. It is possible you may be obtruded upon in a moment of which you are not the perfect mistress; as a friend, I therefore advise your punishing such negligence.”

THE Master of the Horse offered to retire, which the Duke’s politeness prevented, assuring him, that from his domesticated footing, his presence could never be considered in any degree as a restraint. He imparted to the Dutchess, whose embarrassment was apparent, what he had come upon, relative to the law-suit; and taking leave, enjoined the Master of the Horse to be very exact and attentive in obeying the Dutchess’s commands, adding an observation, on “ her fondness for solitude,”

and

and hoping therefore he would as constantly participate it, as his society might not be attended with inconvenience to her wishes.

THE parties were sensible they had not escaped the Duke's penetration, and resolved to be more circumspect; convinced, however, they were at perfect liberty from the Duke's handsome mode of acting towards them, they continued to see each other with ease, until the death of the Dutchess dissolved the connection. The loss seriously afflicted the survivor.

IT was this same person, who in 1732, having mixed, in a circle of noblemen, at Versailles, that were complimenting the Duke on his approaching Nuptials with Mademoiselle de Guise, thought it behoved him to join in congratulation to his former Master; but met with a rebuff on the occasion. The Duke, deeply smitten, and considering this alliance in a light more important than his other Marriage, smartly observed, " what Sir! you are one of the readiest to compliment me? I admit it Sir, but ever I desire at a distance."

IN the pursuit of his pleasures, as no impediment had existed in the life of Madame de Richieu, so the event of her death caused no interruption

tion in them, he had attached himself to the Dutchess of Berri, of whose dissipation the world are not ignorant; both inconstant, and panting for variety, they quitted and met again when suitable to each others inclinations. The Dutches however felt remorse that Richelieu should excel her in that vicious career, to which she had so completely addicted herself. She viewed with anger, his attachment to Mademoiselle de Valois, and Mademoiselle de Charolois, and for sometime became his enemy; but after she had abandoned herself entirely to the Count de Riom, she forgot every reason she had to upbraid Richelieu, and admitted him familiarly, to partake of the pleasures, or rather the orgies that prevailed in her Society.

Lewis the XIV. had paid the debt to nature; and the people, delivered from the oppression of his Tyrannic Reign, regarded, in whatever might be the aspect of the future, a favourable change. No king ever exercised a sway more despotic. In the light he viewed his subjects, he only considered them as so many beings devoted to his will. Their revenge was manifest at his death; they loudly rejoiced, and insulted the funeral and body of that Sovereign, who had prescribed laws to Nations. The Duke was indignant; his principles re-

volted at such marked indecency ; he had accustom'd himself to look on Lewis the XIV. as the greatest Monarch of France. The Kings warlike achievements alone attracted his admiration ; and, in the mind of a young warrior, ambitious only for military fame, it is no wonder that the imperfections of this Reign should pass unnoticed. Our opinion however so widely differing from his, we have permitted ourselves some remarks, on a Reign and on a Monarch, as much exalted by some, as debased by others.

CHAP. III.

*DEATH OF LEWIS THE XIV. DIGRESSION, UPON HIS REIGN,
MADAM DE MAINTENON, AND THE MAN OF THE IRON
MASK.*

THE world are agreed that from the profusion of a King results serious general evil. If he acquires the praises of those courtiers who benefit by his prodigality, of the artists he employs, and of pensioned writers who prostitute their pens in his applause, it falls hard on the people, in whose voice of plaint posterity unite. Thousands of unhappy beings, borne down by the weight of Taxation, lament grievously the effects of that luxury which surrounds him. A Monarch disposed to exceed the Revenues of his kingdom, relies on the exercise of arbitrary Power, to force upon Emergency either real or supposed, extraordinary resources, and these from an

exhausted soil, where the labourer has already yielded those fruits that he alone ought to enjoy. Lewis the XIV. sacrificed every thing to ambition and vain glory. It would be an outrage to nature to rank such a Monarch in the number of good Princes.

THE commencement of his Reign may be dated from the time that he ceased to be under the Tutelage of Mazarine; and that period it cannot be denied was covered with honor. From the success of his Wars, and the acquisitions gained to his kingdom, the crime ascribed to him of an inordinate desire to extend his dominions may be somewhat palliated. The finances, regulated by Colbert, were in the best state; abundance reigned in the kingdom; and the king, feared by his neighbors and beloved by his subjects, reaped the greatest tribute of praise that a monarch could hope for.

P E R H A P S it might have been better for the Nation, had he not been so successful in his first operations. This, with the vile adulation that prevailed, so congenial to his vanity, prevented the use of his reason in forming a better idea of what true glory consists in. A few checks in the outset might have led to such reflections; but conquests alone

occupied

occupied his attention; and the people, equally intoxicated, deemed the commencement of every campaign as the forerunner of the most brilliant advantages.

HAD Lewis the XIV. known where to stop, and after the Peace of Aix la Chapelle, directed his thoughts to render his kingdom flourishing, by the expansion of commerce, the protection of the arts, and extension of agriculture, he would have saved himself that personal remorse caused by future disastrous wars, in which his own fame was involved with the ruin of his dominions. But his imperious disposition required every potentate to bend to his supremacy, and thus his reign proved to be the misery of France.

His Minister Louvois, as estranged from the natural sensibility of mankind, as his Master was a slave to vanity, plunged the kingdom in to unnecessary wars, solely to divert the Monarch from entering into the minutiae of his administration.— This man, of odious Memory, however endowed with some good qualities and great talents, shewed a jealousy of those commanders who were not indebted to him for their advancement; and probably was

singular in rejoicing at the public calamity, in the death of Turenne.

THE attainment of his Views was the sole star that directed his conduct; and in the accomplishment of what he projected, for the maintenance of his Power, a deluge of blood was spilt without remorse.

MEN of rank, attached to the Court, emulous of distinguished employment, secretly favoured his views, and contributed to the burthen of the People. Victories indeed succeeded; but they were obtained at too dear a rate. The public saw at last into the drift of these annual encreased impositions. A momentary interval of Peace succeeded the treaty of Nimeguen. Soon, too soon, the fuel again blazed. Strasbourg was taken, Algiers bombarded; and the war, rendered in itself already so burthensome by troops spread in all parts, became still more afflictive to the People, from the expences incurred by that ridiculous pomp of military attire and useless parade, which accompanied the armies.

UNDER Lewis the XIII. the strongest armies of effectives, numbered not more than 30 or 40,000 men. The ostentation of Lewis the XIV. aiming to impress Europe with the greatness

of

of his Military power, he caused his generals to take the field with armies of one hundred thousand men ; and these he ordered to be supplied with a double Rata of the provisions requisite. He obliged Nations at war with him to adopt the same system ; and hence war became as ruinous to states as it was destructive to individuals of the human species.

AT a moment, when his state so much required the blessings of peace, he engaged the Nation in a war to recover the Throne of James the II. to whom he had afforded an Asylum and Maintenance. Driven from his Kingdom more by the voice of the people, than any desire to grant the Crown, by a preference, to his Son in Law, the Prince of Orange, James cost France ineffectual millions in the attempt of recovering an imaginary right ; and the laurels gained by the French at Steinkirk and Neirwinden, did not compensate for the blood of her subjects, devoted to such infatuation. The deposed Monarch, defeated in Ireland, lost every hope, and returned to his refuge of St. Germain, where he died.

MISERY pervaded every province, and the rejoicings ordered were fatal emblems of the glory and renown, acquired by the warriors of those days,—

the Ciequis, the Catinats, Boufflers and Luxembourgs.

THE Peace of Ryfwick to which his assent was forced, as a vanquished enemy receives terms dictated by its Conqueror, ought to have ensured his attempts against future hostility, even if œconomy in the department of finance, and a Peace establishment for years, had not been the only apparent means of retrieving the exhausted state of his affairs. His faults might have been forgiven, if to the former ardor for war, a sincere inclination had then been manifested towards Peace. But it was not in the Monarch's Nature. Born with an irresistible desire of dominion, he thought he could domineer over Europe, and subjugate her to his will, an idea, which the servility of his courtiers failed not to promote. Instead of allowing that respite so indispensable to his subjects, he indulged that Mania, which might have been supposed extinguished; plunged his country into greater discord and confusion; and, not content with cherishing the former absurd and vain hope, he assumed the power of directing consciences, and of enforcing by terror one belief. The consequence was, the revocation of the edict of Nantes which his base hand sealed;—an act that would have cast

the most indelible stain on any Monarch, in the happiest of reigns.

IN the midst of this barbarity, exercised without compunction, whether by dragooning his subjects by terror of execution, and on thousands actually practised, into his persuasion; or compelling them to abscond, and abandon their estates and families to the tyrant's mercy, the death of Charles the II. of Spain, caused a momentary suspense. That Monarch named the Duke of Anjou, the King's grandson, to succeed to his Crown. Lewis, flattered with the hope of enabling his grandson to take possession of such dignities, scrupled not, notwithstanding the disastrous state of his Kingdom, to engage again in war; and the Duke of Anjou became King of Spain.

BUT is it possible to recall to our memory, without indignation, what it cost France to place and maintain him in the possession of that Kingdom? The Prince of Orange, (chosen King of England) unceasing in his inveterate hatred to Lewis the XIV. united Holland and England to act in favor of the Emperor. The French Monarch, proud of trifling advantages gained in the commencement, appeared to despise his enemies. The Government, in-

Influenced by the Councils of a woman, and Ministers impelled by her direction, entertained the vain notion of effecting more by negotiation than by force of arms. By this absurdity they gave full leisure for those powers to arm and cement their league; and they adopted the ill timed generosity of admitting the release of those troops of Holland, whom Puysegur had found in the Spanish garrisons in the Netherlands, made prisoners of war, and disarmed accordingly. By this weakness of conduct, a war was prolonged, that ought soon to have been terminated; and France was on the brink of destruction. Either he ought at once to have renounced the succession to which his grandson was nominated, or acting vigorously to have followed up the unexpected exploits of his armies. Those troops, detained prisoners, would have weakened the alliance in its formation; and those powers, unprepared, would have found the necessity of acknowledging the Duke of Anjou, as the undoubted heir to the possessions, which the late King of Spain had bequeathed to him. But at this period, no firmness guided the helm. Lewis, grown devout, wanted to accommodate his conscience to his ambition; and,

by such puerility, completed the disasters of his Kingdom.

THE battles, or rather the defeats at Hochstet, Turin, Ramillies and Malplaquet, threw France into a state more deplorable than she has felt for ages; and had Marlborough continued in command at Denain, in all probability that victory would not have been added to Villars's laurels. But for the issue of this battle, France was irretrievably ruined. Nothing could have impeded Prince Eugene's progress; and the capital must have fallen. Equally critical and miraculous was the success of the Duke of Vendome. That Prince, called to the command of Philip's army by the voice of the nobility of Spain, without any succour, which Lewis at that juncture could not spare, in four months, by his courage, talents, and activity, fixed the crown firmly on the head of Philip.

To events so unforeseen, may be ascribed the preservation of his empire, and the pleasure he derived in seeing his grandson on a throne. For this satisfaction, certainly personal, did he plunge his subjects into a war of eleven years, and totally drained his kingdom of every resource. What possible advantage could compensate for such a waste of trea-

sure and blood spilt? Experience should have instructed him that such family compacts are only binding while interests do not clash. The Regent, his successor, governed by the infamous Dubois, caused, shortly after, war to be declared against that prince, for whose elevation France had so severely groaned.

IT is difficult to conceive how the nation could endure this last addition to its misery. She languished from its effect, and the heavy debt created, and accumulating under Lewis XV. produced that enormous deficit, which, opening the eyes of the people, has occasioned the regeneration of France.

THOSE, who witnessed the happy events in his reign only, have been lavish in this monarch's praise; but had they lived to be spectators of the devastation, afterwards caused by his inglorious pursuits, their commendations would have been withheld. Historians should be careful in handing down to posterity the partial acts of Kings! In this age, we view them with freedom; and the liberty of opinion which we enjoy enables us to form a just discrimination.

HOWEVER unpropitious the middle of his reign, the end was still more calamitous. The King,

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under the dominion of Priests, influenced by a bigotted woman, was the situation his subjects had to endure in the latter part of his life. The character of this woman, considered as irreproachable, herself canonized at Rome, was in its sway of more grievous consequence to the nation, than the conduct of all the mistresses who had preceded her in the Monarch's attachment. Adroit and insinuating, she directed her views to a participation of the throne; and, by a gradual persevering system, accomplished her end in a total subjection of the Monarch.

THE history of the rise of this woman is wonderful. Descended of a good family, but in indigent circumstances, her parents, the D'aubigne's, considered they had effected a good establishment for their daughter, in marrying her to the Poet Scarron. Before this marriage, she had renounced Calvinism, the religion of her ancestors. After the death of Scarron, she solicited, in vain, for a continuation of the pension he had enjoyed; and not till some time had elapsed, was a maintenance from the court allotted to her, and the Duke of Maine, whose rank then was not avowed, placed under her care. From that moment she strove to captivate the King, by the

force

force of mental charms, which a natural good sense, embellished by a highly cultivated understanding, gave her so much the power of. The Monarch at first was inattentive to her conversation; he conceived it partook of prudery and pedantry; but often, from his attachment to the child, obliged to lend an ear, at length he attended to it with pleasure. The more he advanced in life, the more was he disgusted with Madam de Montespan, whose capriciousness, at an earlier period, might have been disregarded; her company he now sought to avoid; and in the mildness, complacency, and above all, the piety of Madam de Maintenon, he found a relief from the other's hauteur.

SUCH virtuous endowments he wished to recompence. These, combining with her affiduity to his son, brought her forward in 1680, as lady of the bed-chamber to the Dauphiness, after he had purchased, for her benefit, the seignorial lands of Maintenon.

THIS introduction at court placed her on a footing with her former patroness, Madam de Montespan; and, far from assuming, her modest deportment, gained more and more on the Prince. On the other hand, the Queen, irritated at the arrogance

of

of the favourite, was desirous of a rival whose weight she would less feel; and, strange to tell! assisted Madam de Maintenon in her designs on her husband. This woman, whose favor at Court was so particular, narrowly watched every means tending to promote her object. Those alternations of passion and repentance that governed the Monarch did not escape her discernment. She encouraged that remorse, pitied without condemning his excesses, and dictated her sentiments as arising from the most rigid and correct purity of mind, concealed under the veil of a most passionate attachment and interest, in his future welfare. Unaccustomed to hear such truths spoken, this weak Monarch felt alarmed for his salvation, and in devoting himself to her society, was impressed with an idea that it was a road to ensure it. Herself, too sensible to suppose that beauty alone could inspire him, conscious of the defect of personal charms, and of an age exceeding that of the Monarch, she adopted a mode widely different from others, whose object equally had been to fascinate him. Her deportment, humble and unaffected, was yet Majestic; and her dress, with all the stile of apparent indifference, attracted a distinguished preference in its neatness. Her exhaustible fund of conversati-

on varied, and adapted itself, as circumstances directed. With such transcendent talents and unremitting observation, she completely triumphed.

VIEWING Madam de Montespan as an obstacle to her greatness, though bound by every tie, that gratitude is capable of inspiring, she yet ceased in no endeavour to supplant her; and early flattered herself that manifesting a regard for religion would effect it. At one moment, her prospect had nearly vanished; but fortune interposed by the death of her rival Madam de Fontange, who fell a sacrifice at twenty years of age, leaving her in the enjoyment of her ascendancy.

THE King, whose moments were embittered by the horrors of so premature a death, turned indignant from the joy of her sister, Madam de Montespan, and flew for consolation to Madam de Maintenon. There he found tears joined with his, the most gentle, yet insinuating reproof, conveyed against the luxury and parade surrounding Madam de Montespan, whilst herself was, in the reserve and gravity of her conduct, an example of imitation to the people. Whilst espoused to Scarron, and prior to being entrusted with the Duke of Maine's education, ca-

Lumy had not spared her, and whether she merited or not its darts, she was determined, by an austere demeanor, to do away the suspicions that might have been entertained. Her mind, a prey to innate ambition, blended with consummate address, knew how to govern, without permitting her influence to be perceived. Finally, the Monarch deluded by her enchantment, was persuaded into a secret marriage; and this ceremony, so fatal, took place in 1635;—an year rendered too memorable, by the horrid act of the revocation of the edict of Nantes.

THIS was a signal of preferment to the devotees. They surrounded the Monarch, occupying every post at Court. Even Fagon, her physician, supplanted as first physician, a man, for whose professional ability the King before had a regard. The Queen's apartments in every Palace were assigned for her residence; and this mark of favor she expected, to compensate for the King's determination, on no public avowal of his marriage.

A tedious malady, which subjected him to a painful operation, afflited further her views in alarming him with thoughts on his future state. The Jesuites, ever watchful of seizing the opportunity,

proclaimed by a Monarch's tendency to excess of devotion, ranged under her banner; and, participating with her in the influence in his Councils, they soon led him to consider it as criminal, "that a most Christian King should suffer men of a different persuasion to inhabit his Kingdom". Louvois, intent on involving his Master in constant warfare, and pliant to her orders, readily engaged in this nefarious measure. His sanguinary soul not satisfied with the truce recently executed, after an unceasing hostility of twenty years, panted till he obtained the Monarch's directions, to employ his troops in the expulsion of his Protestant subjects.

IT is in vain that Madam de Maintenon, in her letters, labors to justify this act. The public will not easily credit her assertion, "that the King would not sign the order, without his confessor, Father la Chaise, becoming responsible, that no blood should be shed." Posterity join in an execration of her memory. Sixty thousand families devoted to exile, on account of a conscientious scruple, were not to be driven out of a kingdom, or subjected to the rigors of the galley or the scaffold, without a struggle: and to complete the misery entailed on the kingdom by the infamy of this measure, France had

had to deplore, the irretrievable transfer of many of her most valuable manufacturers and artists, to adorn and benefit other countries.

IT is impossible to apply to her a want of discernment. In a weak, bigotted woman, such an excuse might be pleaded ; but Madam de Maintenon had too much sense, not to know that such emigrations would be attended with the most ruinous consequences; most of these industrious people, were a class of citizens, enriched by the dedication of talents to beneficial study. Their belief ejected them from employment at court ; and the riches they acquired, were employed in a due proportion in alleviating the burthens of the state ; and even in charitable acts to their differing brethren, the Catholics.

THE only palliation her defenders may use, is that she probably did not foresee the extent of the mischief : still, from this position, it does not result that it was less affecting ; and our conclusion therefore is just, in pronouncing, that of all the favourite Mistresses, who succeeded in the affections of this monarch, her ascendancy proved most pernicious to the nation.

In Madam de la Valliere, centered the desire alone of possessing his Majesty. She loved the man, and her heart was wrapped in him. Far from considering splendor as attached to her station, but, on the contrary deeming the step taken as the greatest stain to her character; repentant of having sinned, she devoted in a cloyster to God, that heart, the unfortunate tendency of which had made her so miserable.

His majesty's other attachments were of no long duration. Madam de Montespan alone enjoyed the pleasure of en chaining the Monarch to her car, some years. A numerous progeny from this adulterous connection, and her transcendent charms combined to effect this constancy. Priding herself in having brought into the world a race of princes, vain of the homage of the man whom she considered the first potentate on earth, her insolence was felt by every dependent; the parade she maintained exceeded the establishment fixed for the Queen. By this exterior she hoped to impose on the world the idea that she reigned; and that to her councils were owing, that rank and pre-eminence in the affairs of Europe, which the Monarch derived from his victories and successes. Yet, happily for the nation! and much happier had it continued, it is notorious that of essential transactions she was in perfect ignorance

norance. Her dominion was exercised in those moments, which her lover devoted to her company; and in those instances of splendor, where, by immoderate expence, he indulged in a gratification of his vanity.

IN the character of these women, the contrast is obvious. Madam de Maintenon, by an exterior that fixed no person's attention, and the most humble deportment, to all those attached to his service, preserved her dominion over the Monarch, and ruled with the most unbounded sway.

LEWIS the XV. has been upbraided with allowing his mistresses to participate in his Government, in the exiling and displacing of ministers to create others, in the exalting of their relations, and the advancement of their creatures, and even in the nomination of Generals, to command his armies. But in this, what was there extraordinary in the Monarch? Delighting in indolence, and finding a precedent established, so congenial to his inclination, he, throughout his reign, followed his natural bent. The only alteration perceptible in his succession was that his mistresses, appearing in no concealed form, exercised their empire without disguise.

MADAM

MADAM de Maintenon, in her selection of men, inclined towards those of a pious disposition. To prefer such men, she laid aside those eminent in the field and cabinet. Of this description, her rejection of Catinat, from the command of the monarch's armies, and the admission of Chamillard, into the legislation, are strong proofs. Her art wished to fix this impression on the monarch. She says, in her letters of justification, the monarch approved not of employing men not impressed apparently with a due sense of religion. But who caused this bias? Was it not herself, that created this absurd limitation in government?

IN the art she practiced to govern, she prevailed upon the King to closet himself with his Ministers, in a corner of which she seemed inattentive, and her attention totally engrossed by the work she had in hand. Apprised however, by the Ministers, of what would be submitted to consideration, she took care to have it presented to the monarch in an intricate form. This naturally brought a reference to her judgment, and understanding the subject previously, the opinion she gave, corroborated of course by the ministers, was always certain of being decisive.

WITH all that appearance of humility, she remitted no honor that she deemed due to her exalted station. No access to the sovereign was obtainable, but through her favor. The Dauphin, not disposed to pay her homage, was compelled to treat her with respect. The Duchess of Burgundy was obedient to her will; and in this obsequiousness, her solicitations to her grand father, met with assent. In short the King's energy entirely foresook him, and equally that discernment which he had often displayed in his selection of merit. Lewis the XIV. was no more. A slave to priesthood, what fame he had acquired in the commencement of his reign, faded in the impression of his latter situation.

THE Brother of his favorite, a man noted for a want of understanding and discretion, was his abhorrence; yet her credit conferred on him a Prince-ly government, with the blue ribband. The Bâton of a Maréchal was alone requisite, to complete his exaltation; this she refused; but soothed her refusal, with great pecuniary donations from the state, which induced the courtiers facetiously to remark, that "his Bâton was converted into sterling value."

HER Niece, she disposed of to the Count of Ayen, son to the Duke of Noailles: and however deranged

deranged the King's finances were, yet eight hundred thousand Livres were bestowed, as the young Lady's marriage portion.

INCENSED against the Dauphin for his prior neglect, and feeling a real attachment to her pupil, the Duke of Maine, were the motives, that actuated her in persuading the Monarch into the act of legitimating these children; and thereby, annexing to them every appanage of royalty, increasing the burthen of the state.

No greater instances can be adduced to fix on Madam de Maintenon, the criminality of every destructive measure that afflicted the Monarchy at this period. Whatever idea may be attached to the natural tendency of every person, not impelled by treacherous intentions, wishing, in what they devise, that it's execution and influence may be productive of good; yet, if the system is found pregnant with evil and still persisted in, the inference is, that it arises from want of wisdom, and that it's calamity is perpetrated by an obstinate adherence.

BUT the advocates of Madam de Maintenon, will find it equally difficult to palliate her ingratitude to her benefactor. Instead of a-

waiting

awaiting to close those eyes, once so partial to her, and relieving by that direction to religious thoughts, she had inspired him with, the pangs of his dying moments, retired to St. Cyr, when his illness was pronounced dangerous; and in those intervals of sanity, left the dying Monarch, in vain to seek for consolation from that presence he had so long been accustomed to revere. Such a conduct might have admitted of excuse, if her conjugal attachment had repugned at the idea of separation; but the world knew to what cause to attribute it,—a desire of maintaining her power through the Duke of Maine; for satisfied, that the Duke of Orleans, if, as first Prince of the blood, he came to the regency, would annihilate her influence, she had prevailed on the Monarch to exclude him by his will, for a preference to the Duke of Maine, in consequence of his legitimization. By these means she flattered herself to retain her sway, and to effect this purpose abandoned the monarch in his latter end, that she might, unsuspected, in the place of her retreat, (a religious foundation) be at greater liberty to intrigue in his favor. The Duke, equally a stranger to filial affection, where his interest predominated, abandoned his dying parent and was accompanied by

Le Tellier, the Monarch's confessor who being in the secret of the testament made, united with the Duke in canvassing Paris to secure its ratification.

THIS is the picture of the woman, whom the servility of priesthood, has attempted to raise to such eminence in life. They have extolled her sanctity in converting the monarch, from those unbounded excesses to which he had addicted himself. In the piety of her letters, and of her religious establishment of St. Cyr; in her virtues so conspicuous, which, admitting that she possessed them, were better destined to a cloyster, than to the Government of a Monarchy.

THE death of Lewis the XIV. was an event of general rejoicing. If Richelieu felt indignant at such a proceeding, it must be ascribed to his inattention to the misery of the People. However partial his sentiments, in regard to the Monarch, he could not be insensible to the absurdity of a kingdom being guided by the influence of a confessor and a bigoted woman. Indeed, how could he justify or palliate the acts of administration in the close of this reign? Himself was a witness to the iniquity that prevailed, and the only living person to whom was confided the identity and history of

that

that person, a victim to arbitrary power, under the denomination of the man with the iron mask. Could he have opposed the fact of this man being actually a brother of Lewis the XIV. how would he have accounted or excused the infamy of this Monarch keeping this man in confinement to his death? With us, such an act conveys so foul a stain, that years of virtue could not make sufficient atonement. It is a point well ascertained, that Mademoiselle de Valois, arrived at the knowledge of this fact, through a path, that it is unnatural to suppose a Father would require. The regent imparted it, and prompted in the sacrifice she made to effect the release of her lover, she immediately communicated it to him, under the strictest injunction of secrecy. Fifty years had elapsed without the Marechal noticing it at that period, conceiving no danger to exist. We observe by his papers, that he entertained an idea of writing upon this uncommon event; but prudence and discretion restrained its continuance; he became fearful, that some consequences might result, and in this unfinished state left only a sketch, which although marking the man as the actual brother of Lewis the XIV. leaves us still in doubt whether he was the twin brother of that Monarch, or a brother born in adultery.

If he came into the world a twin, what could have induced the Mother to manifest that anxiety to remove him at that moment? It was not likely that she would so early display, so decided a preference to either; and as little probable that her mind was agitated by the dread of a future contest, between the brothers, for the throne.

Is it not more natural to infer, that the wife of Lewis the XIII. known to have a propensity to Mazarine, and not of the most correct character, might have engendered this child in the absence of her husband? The hurry of removing him, will thus be accounted for; and the talent of preserving secrecy in their confidence is well known, and practised with ease by princes. As the child grew up, a resemblance to his brother might be striking; a mistake of his governor might reveal his birth. Projects of ambition succeed; an intention of avowing himself is formed; the reigning power dreads the consequences: and to secure its stability dooms the unfortunate object of its jealousy to perpetual confinement. These are more than surmises; the world are in general agreed, at this period, to pronounce them just conclusions.

THE Marshal decisively assures us, the prisoner was brother to Lewis the XIV.; and this is confirmed by every historian who treats on the subject; by an observation, that no common man, could have commanded the very great degree of attention and respect paid to him. It matters not therefore how the kindred arose, since the position of his being a brother to this monarch is incontrovertible.

WHAT can posterity think of a King so callous in feeling, as to conduct himself to a brother with such obduracy? Was there no other means than imprisonment, to avert the confusion that he might create? Under the tuition of his mother and Mazarine, such a measure, in his infancy, might have been excuseable; but when, having attained the age of discretion, he held the reins of Government; secure on his throne by the splendour of his victories, and impressing his subjects with the grandeur of their Monarch, it was unpardonable to persist in its continuance. No danger existed of his brother's birth being revealed; no person remained, who would have incurred the risque of attesting it. The indiscretion of a Governor carried no conviction; and, if no conviction, surely less apprehension of consequences.

BESIDES,

BESIDES, if respect for the memory of his Mother was the motive of concealment, could he not, when sensible no commotion whatever was capable of endangering his power, have engaged this Prince to retire abroad, and live under a foreign name, upon a revenue his bounty might have assigned to him? How much more meritorious would such conduct have been? The man who could act so widely different and manifest such inhumanity, levels himself, in history, with the tyranny related of Eastern despots. Indeed, the ingenuity of the most tyrannic, could not have been surpassed, in devising so cruel a punishment. To doom a fellow creature to a confinement for life, to compel his wearing an iron mask to disguise his features, to direct his being put to death, in case of accidental discovery, forms a crime so atrocious, that mankind shudder in its recollection.

CHAP. IV.

THE DUKE OF ORLEANS IS DECLARED REGENT OF THE KING.
DOM—RICHELIEU ATTACHES HIMSELF TO MESDA.
MES DAVERNE, DE GUEBRIANT, DE MOUCHY, DE SA-
BRAN, AND DE NESLE.

THE Duke of Richelieu, more inclined to dissipate, than to engage in any party that professed the object of seeing the King's will carried into execution, seemed perfectly indifferent to its issue. The monarch however inured to despotism, did not flatter himself that his orders after his death would be respected; sensible of his father's will having been set aside, he could think no otherwise, than that his would be subject to the same fate. And he even predicted this to those who forced him into the measure. In fact, the duke of Orleans, to whom, by the will, was assigned a limited power, considered his rights as first
prince

prince of the blood infringed; and with the address he possessed, soon gained a general suffrage, in proclaiming him sole and absolute regent, during the King's minority.

RICHELIEU, joined in the train of courtiers that went to the palace to offer their congratulations. The change was not displeasing. The morals, and the turn of a court depend on the inclination of the Sovereign. With the late King, fully acquainted with the foible of human nature, it was only requisite to maintain in appearance a certain decorum, and the man however frail was well received. With the regent no veil was necessary; depravity reigned; the example he set in his own person was boundless; and the most vicious were exposed to no shame, or contrition.

His excesses were of that notoriety, as require no detail;—the Luxemburgh, inhabited by one of his daughters, the Duchess of Berry, was one of the Temples, in which every thing was sacrificed to indecency. The father and daughter perfectly understood each other; and congeniality of habit threw aside all restraint.

IN the life of her husband, her conduct had been attended with circumspection; but, become a widow,

widow, she no longer observed any. It is scarcely possible to conceive, the excess that vice had attained in her mind. Endowed with wit and beauty, and uncontrolled in her passions, she managed, with singular address, the attachments she formed. Whilst the Duke was living, incommoded in her desires, she endeavored to prevail on La Haye, his Master of the Horse, to fly with her to Holland. This man, alarmed at the proposal, and sensible of the prevailing manners of her father's household, disclosed it to him. The Duke put a stop to the project; remarking how romantic it was in his daughter to seek amusement in another country, when she met with such gratification in her own. Alternately licentious and devout, and never constant, the former obtained, and she ended her dissolute career, in every extravagance, for the Count of Riom.

This man, neither handsome or of a captivating figure, possessed, however, the secret of fascinating women. The Dutchess, selected him for Captain of her Guards. His behaviour to her was more that of a master, than a lover; and she had the weakness to be submissive to his will.

THE Duke of Richelieu, soon ceased his attention, and devoted himself to her sister, Mademoiselle de Valois, a Princess, who uniting beauty and sensibility, knew the value of a mutual attachment. Few instances were manifest at that period, of such constancy. The Dutchess ever retained a pleasing remembrance of her first impression; and become, Dutchess of Modena, by the tyrannic etiquette of a court, which did not permit a Princess of her rank to avow and follow her natural inclination; she carried in her heart the image of the Duke; delighted in speaking of him, to all of her country, who sojourned at her court; and occasionally visited France, for the pleasure of reviewing the scene and the object.

A CONQUEST, so flattering to his vanity ought to have made him desist from other pursuits, but impelled by a desire of rivalling the regent, he paid his addresses to the reigning mistress, Madame D'averne, whose profusion was excessive. The Duke allowed for her table only three thousand livres per month, a sum considered in those days, to be applied to such expence, as immoderate. Ostentatious and lavish in every éclat to fix Richelieu to her ear, she beheld him with regret quit her enchant-

ment

ment, to renew his devoirs to Mademoiselle de Charolois. Madame de Villars, from attachment to the Duke, had become the mediator of this reconciliation.

IN vain, Madame D'averne, hoped by a magnificent display in honor of her favorite, but ostensibly held out as a return of ceremony to Madame D' Etrečs, to renovate his attachment. His vanity felt pleased in the honor of such an entertainment being ascribed to him. He received those compliments the occasion demanded; but instead of a proper return to Madame D'averne, his attention was solely occupied by Madame de Mouchy, a Lady of the Bed-chamber to the Dutchess of Berry, and suspected of partaking of her Lover, the Count de Riom's affections. Even this suspicion was intimated to the Dutchess by her Father, but such was the imperious sway the Count exercised, that it only served to subjugate her more to his caprice.

RICHELIEU had shewn no greater constancy in his attachment to Madame de Guèbriant, who manifested her displeasure in many letters, extant. An anecdote is related of the mistake made by the Duke's coachman, in conveying to the Duke's Villa Madame de Sabran, instead of this Lady. The

latter furious and resolved not to be disappointed in the visit proposed, threw herself into a hackney coach, and drove to the house of appointment. The two Ladies met, and pleasantly testified their rage. Richelieu unmoved, threatened one with exposing her correspondence, soothed the other; and allowed not the ladies to part from him, till their passions subsiding, the mistakes of the day, became a subject of merriment.

MADAME de Guèbriant, taught by Richelieu to be inconstant, preferring a rival to him, still assumed the liberty of upbraiding him. Their intercourse was broke off by a very offensive answer sent to one of her invitations. Madame de Sabran, initiated in the Theatre of the Luxembourg, felt a reluctance to such scenes, and quitting, expressed her aversion in a pointed remark to the regent; Madame de Nesle felt an extravagant partiality for the Duke. Jealous of any other being the object of his attention, she sought her rival Madame de Polignac, and actually a duel with Pistols ensued. The former was wounded in the shoulder, and gloried in the cause of her wound; but sensible at last, the field would constantly be open to her resentment, she desisted from disputing a heart the prize of so many of her sex.

IN the festival given for him at St. Cloud, by Madame D'averne, he had been listened to with attention by Madame du Mouchy. This Lady, and her mistress the Duchess, being the subject of conversation in a subsequent supper, a wager was offered by Mr. de Melun, that notwithstanding his address in gallantry, he wculd yet, not in the course of one week, be initiated in the good graces, of either of these Ladies.

SUCH a defiance, was a spur to Richelieu, to merit their favor, and the anecdotes of those times, say, that he succeeded, in deserving the approbation of both.

HIS duel with the Count de Nocé, was the cause of his second confinement in the Bastille. Fortunately, no trace could be discovered of its having occurred, otherwise, than from an accidental rencontro, in which the passions of each being excited, gave vent, to the impulse of rage that governed them. This joined with powerful protection in the Ladies of the regent's Court, occasioned their solicitations for his release, to be speedily granted.

THE regent, in fact, would not have been sorry, could he have effected his detention with propriety. That habit, the Duke had adopted of thwarting

thwarting his inclinations, could not be pleasing to the Prince. The Marchioness of Parabère, attached to both, was relieved from an embarrassing situation, at this juncture, by the death of her husband.

THE court of the regent, becoming more licentious, attracted the notice of the public; and they believing that such excesses, as were related, prevailed, contented their weak minds in a supposition, that to this class in society, a certain privilege in actions, existed. The old Courtiers, who had conformed and were wedded to the decorum of the old Cour, censured severely this change in manners. The Regent alone was indifferent, and his popular qualities and Government gaining the affection of the multitude, they soon were accustomed to view him, without wonder, environed by his Mistresses. The life of this Prince, being so connected with that of Richelieu, induces us to digress, in offering some parts of it to the public.

CHAP. V.

THE REGENT, AND HIS MODE OF LIFE.

THE Duke of Orléans, become Regent of France, did not depart from that familiarity to which he had admitted his intimates. The Count of Nocé, the Marquis de la Fare, Farge's L'abbé Dubois, a name rendered so contemptible throughout Europe, were those favorites, on whom his choice descended. The Duke of Richelieu shared likewise in his intimacy, but these apparent marks of favor, were confined to the commencement of his Regency.—The Prince however dispoled to love him, from that inclination reciprocal habit creates, could not view with temper that unceasing desire of Richelieu to supplant him; and the historian of those days adds,

that

that it was the effect of the Duke's goodness, to suffer only his tendency towards him to relax, without punishing severely such temerity.

THE ease and mildness of the prince, rendered his life agreeable, and equally pleasant to those about him; his only fault, was being addicted too much to give way to his passions. A convivial turn with the most polite and brilliant wit, inclined him to the pleasures of the table, and wine often overpowering him, his reason subdued, plunged him into many excesses and situations, highly unbecoming of the character and station he bore. The people however were indulgent. they pardoned those moments where he appeared, to the shame of his courtiers, in public, not master of himself. They felt their own happiness, blessing his administration, and spared their censure, for private errors, that did not affect them individually. But, no sooner did the mischievous consequence of the system introduced by Law spread its direful effect, than they became loud in their condemnation. The Abbé Dubois, his unworthy preceptor, notwithstanding the remonstrances of the late King to restrain that tendency so apparent in his Pupil, converted it, on the contrary, to assist him in gaining that influence he meditated.

meditated. His only care was that no object of the Prince's attachment should continue so long, as to cause an anxiety of her ascendancy preponderating. When any apprehension of this nature was formed, a diversity of other objects rapidly succeeded the removal of that one which had given umbrage.

WHEN elevated to the situation of regent, his passions no longer checked by controul, or advice of any kind, broke forth in the most unbounded manner; and his history is fraught with unpardonable acts. Mesdames de Gesvres, de Perabére, d'Averne, de Chatillon, and D'Argenson, were those Ladies that partook the most of his attachments; with the exception of the Dutches of Phalaris, whose empire only ceased with his death.

THE regent about this time felt the lash of satirical pens. Voltaire, then known by his family name of Arrouet, was amongst the first who exercised on him that talent. His vices excited the Prince's anger, and without Monsieur de Brancas, who protected the young Poet, and on whom he diverted the effect of his satire, to the great entertainment of the regent, he probably, would have felt the weight of his displeasure. This Prince so far from holding in any remembrance the bitterness of Voltaire's lines, honored him with his regard, and

on the representation of the Tragedy of *Œdipus*, he presented the author with his picture, valuably and elegantly set.

IN this year the surprize of the city was excited by the arrival of a Prince, whose vast possessions were little known, and whose object in travelling was in an acquisition of personal knowledge, to tend to their future benefit. Peter, surnamed the great Czar of Russia, travelled through Europe, from the noble motive, to qualify himself by observation, to reform in time, the abuses, he was sensible, prevailed in his Empire, and to introduce the useful arts, with a spirit of industry. The Monarch soon had the pleasure of seeing, from the great example he set, ignorance and barbarity dispelled. He condescended to work as a common mechanic, in the Dock yards of Holland. Leaving that country for Paris, a general emulation was excited to display every thing, that could satisfy his desire of improvement. He was introduced to every manufactory, and to those buildings where printing is carried on, in so extensive and liberal a scale. After testifying his approbation, he expressed an anxious wish to visit the monument of Cardinal Richelieu. The Duke, apprized of the day, attended to do the honors of his great uncle's mausoleum, and from the name he bore, received

from

from the sovereign the most gracious welcome.

THE Monarch after extolling the genius of the sculptor, addressed the young Duke in these memorable words: “ Were that great man now living, I would sacrifice to him one half of my dominions, to teach me to govern the other half with ability.”—A wit of the Court, observed, “ the Monarch would in doing this commit a capital error, for that great man vested with one half, infallibly, would never rest quiet, till he had obtained, or possessed himself of the remaining portion.” The arbitrary power exercised by this Minister induced the Monarch’s approbation. Himself, accustomed to view his subjects from his infancy, tamely resigned to his despotism; while the other, seizing the moment of a weak Monarch’s reign, established that despotic sway, so flattering to Princes, early tutor-ed with such notions of Government.

CHAP. VI.

*CONTINUATION OF THE DUKE'S LIFE — CONSPIRACY OF THE
PRINCE DE CELLAMARE, AMBASSADOR FROM SPAIN,—
THIRD IMPRISONMENT OF THE DUKE IN THE BASTILLE.*

THE Duke of Richelieu, liable from the variety of his attachments, to the frequent reproach of those whom he neglected, bore the torrent of rage with becoming patience ; and having allowed these emotions gradually to subside, converted the disappointment felt, into future assurances of friendship. His manners and lively conversation, made him the delight of every society; and the Marechale de Villars, and Madame D'averne, in the list of those whom he had deserted, pardoned his inconstancy, for

for the pleasure of receiving him into those circles, or their brilliant qualifications attracted.

MADAME de Villars, soon receded from her resolution ; and the frequency of the Duke's visits becoming unpleasant to the old Marechal, he observed one day, that " Though he had admitted of his services with the army, as his Aide de Camp, he was not in the least desirous of availing himself of them at home, and freely dispensed with every personal return he might intend, for the obligation of having taught him the duty of a soldier !"

THE respect the Duke had for his Master, prompted him to explain, and try to dispel the Marechal's suspicions. But the old veteran observed, if he entertained not a partiality for his wife, she did for him, as he was the constant theme of her praise, and therefore enjoined in future more circumspection.

IN effect, few friends were more sincere, and indulgent to his foibles, than the Dutchesse. Her inclination, jealousy and friendship for him, were at constant variance ; and Richelieu, sensible of the value of such an attachment, adapted himself in his interviews, to whichever of those passions, for the moment predominated.

THE

THE Princess de Soubise, was less indulgent; having permitted his attentions, she exacted from him a general sacrifice. Induced by the hope of success, he promised implicitly to conform to what was required, added oaths to his assurances, and in her presence burnt letters, from those who had heard similar protestations. In those moments, his eloquence, ardour and persuasion were uncommonly fascinating. The Princess, already prejudiced in his favor, yielded her regard, and expected that her youth and beauty would captivate. Appearance at first inclined to her wishes, suspicion succeeded to disturb her tranquillity ; and soon after a certainty of what she apprehended, removed every doubt.

IN the early part of this attachment, he had imposed a certain restraint on himself. But that habit which domineered, soon excited a desire of being released. He had no idea of controul ; if any condition was exacted, it only proved the means of sooner emancipating himself. He required, on the contrary, the most liberal indulgence, and to such who shewed a disposition to favor him, he was ever more persevering in his attachments. In vain Madame de Soubise, employed every art to reclaim him.

him. He was deaf to entreaty, and tried by occasional renewed professions, to subject likewise the Princess to his caprice. A dignity of mind, preserved her from a repetition of the same weakness, and perhaps she was singular in an adherence to her resolution.

In this rapid succession of pleasure was this extraordinary man's life passed, from the fifteenth year of the present century, till the twenty-fifth, that he was nominated Ambassador Extraordinary to Vienna. His health, notwithstanding such dissipation, seemed not in the least affected. Nature had endowed him with the most vigorous constitution; but it would have been insufficient, had he not possessed a command of temper, which enabled him to repose, whenever his health prescribed the necessity.

BORN in a reign addicted to astrology, he implicitly gave into this belief, and the calculation that had been made, from the contrast of his nativity, with the influence of the planets, predicted the month of March, as the month of the year, that would be fatal to him; in the early part of his life he did not pay it much attention, but towards the latter end when each year announced his preparation for the other world, he appeared as anxious during that period,

as

as rejoiced when it had gone by, and then concluded that another full season was allotted him.

ALL those pretenders, boasting in a knowledge of futurity, were sure of being consulted by him and his companions.—In an ignorant age this was enough for the multitude to suspect him of witchcraft. His enemies gladly embraced this notion, and during his embassy at Vienna, the report spread in Paris, that the Duke, with other German Noblemen, had renovated and practiced the ancient mysteries of Hecate, in the sacrifice of an human being to the moon. This calumny however atrocious, gained ground; and however improbable, that such an enormity could be perpetrated in a city so civilized, the anecdotes of those times relate it with confidence; whence may be deduced how easy it is to propagate the belief of evil, and what faith ought to be given to Chronicles, with insertions of this nature.

THE Duke of Richelieu, cultivated an intimacy with a man named Damis, who assumed a general knowledge, and in particular blended as inseparable the science of Astrology, with that of Physic. Attacked, at this juncture, by some threatening symptoms of an approaching dissolution, from the spitting of blood, he laid his case before him, and received his advice. But what tended chiefly to their union,

was the idea entertained of this philosopher, having discovered the secret of converting metal into gold. The Duke however rich, magnificent and liberal, was yet fond of money; and the pleasure of conceiving that he would command for the gratification of every wish, an inexhaustible fund, attached him to this philosopher. He learnt from him some chymical experiments, and from those that were practiced before him, gold certainly was extracted.

THIS flattering prospect to his imagination vanished on a sudden. The man no longer was to be met with, and no reason could be ascribed for so precipitate a retreat. The Duke continued in his persuasion, grounded on the disinterestedness, he had shewn. Every motive conduced to establish this opinion. No money had ever been required, and what gold resulted from each chymical preparation, had always been left in the Duke's possession, the last ingot of which, weighed 722 livres 10 Sous.

MEN were dispatched to every part, where it was supposed, he might have directed his steps, but every search proved ineffectual. The Duke sought consolation in a recourse to his former pursuits. Madame du Deffant attracted his attention,

and Mademoiselle de Charolois, to whom he had become reconciled, engrossed it for sometime.

MADMOISELLE de Valois's regard for the Duke operated so much in his favor, as to cause her discrediting every report that was conveyed to his prejudice: his penetration soon evinced the ground he had gained in her esteem, and no occasion existed, of persuading her in those interviews, that they were the effect of calumny, proceeding from misplaced envy.

THIS Princess, living more retired than others of her rank, had not a similar opportunity of becoming acquainted with those anecdotes of gallantry, that daily were the subject at her father's Court. Seduced by her natural affection, she wished not to be deceived, and the sole object of her thoughts was in devising fresh means of seeing the Duke, after he had parted with her.

RICHELIEU, apprehensive that this attachment, if known, might carry with it unpleasant consequences, sought by every ingenuity to elude discovery. With this view he became assiduous, in paying every flattering compliment that opportunity offered, to an old Duenna; whom the

licitude

licitude of the Duchess of Orleans, for her daughter's reputation had placed near the young Lady. This argus possessing the mother's entire confidence, fixed on an apartment adjacent to the Princess, and to this was a back stair-case leading to both, which passage for their convenience, had often been hazarded. Prudence however required that attempts attended with such risque, should seldom occur, and fatigued with this restraint imposed on their wishes, they mutually agreed, the vigilance of the old Lady should be subdued.

THE Duke, accustomed to pay homage only to the shrine of beauty, was from necessity compelled to tender it, where certainly the tribute was not due. Her ugliness was a safeguard, and religion another barrier. Determined however to remove every obstacle interrupting his happiness, he easily conquered his prejudice, and passionately addressed Mademoiselle Aimée. This was the name the superannuated attendant bore. The event of his first approach was truly discouraging. The Lady felt offended, and ridiculed his professions of attachment. The Duke, persevering, excited her surprize, and conceiving from force of repetition, there must be some truth in the soft expressions of a man of such

rank and vogue, she concluded, others must have been blind to those charms, he discerned.

This point gained, her dread of future punishment was the second; frequent opportunity of seeing the Duke soon diminished those scruples, and watchful of the moment, the horrid phantom was quickly dispelled: unused to such a preference, she imputed it solely to the love she had inspired, and fluttering herself his attachment would be lasting, regretted not the sacrifice.

THE Duke, in his confessions to his intimates, imparted that the first step was the only difficulty to vanquish; and this surmounted, he felt not the repugnance he had the idea of. But in this gratification did not consist the end he had to attain. It was requisite, notwithstanding the secrecy enjoined and promised, the Duke should have in his power to betray it, if impediments arose, to those meetings, which this success was meant to facilitate. To this purpose, the Duke assured her in writing, of his happiness, and how fortunate he should consider himself in its continuance. Proud of this additional mark of his attachment, she immediately replied in terms no less passionate, and considering

their

their views as eternally pledged, she swore constant obedience. A midnight appointment was solicited, and as readily granted.

MADMOISELLE de Valois, had regularly been apprized by the Duke. This was the moment that completed their wishes. Each manifested an impatience, to play their respective part in the scene, intended. The clock strikes one, and the Duke provided by Mademoiselle Aimée with the key of the back stairs, presents himself. Scarcely time is given for the joy expressed, before Mademoiselle de Valois appears in that instant; of earnest solicitation, for the return of those letters which Richelieu, with pain, was surrendering.

IMAGINATION could with difficulty point the confusion and embarrassment of the Duenna. The letters fall, and are seized. Mademoiselle de Valois, indignant, declares that seeing the cause, her surprize is not excited by her neglect ; that having summoned her attendance, several times by the ringing of her bell, she had thought illness was the omission ; which a favorable disposition led her to ascertain, by coming into her room at that time of the night, but with little expectation of finding a man closetted; and ending her admonition, with a

reference to the written proofs she holds, of the impropriety of her conduct, she declares feigning to leave the room, that the whole will be revealed to the Duchess her Mother.

TEARS of sensibility, regret, and apprehension choaked the poor Duenna's utterance, who only could in a faint voice supplicate her pardon, and exemption from absolute ruin in the discovery meditated. Mademoiselle de Valois appearing inexorable, the Duke furiously detaches himself from Mademoiselle Aimée, exclaims so amiable and respectable a woman shall not solely be devoted to ruin, and rushing upon the former, forcibly carries her into the adjacent apartment.

MADMOISELLE de Valois in equal confusion, returns into the room she had quitted, is loud in her lamentations, accusing the Duenna of the cause of such injurious treatment ; Richelieu at her feet imploring her excuse for his temerity, which the fatal impulse of the moment alone had occasioned, and all together forming a denouement, that mutual concession only could repair. The first emotions subsiding, each engaged for their individual performance, and the parties separated, perfectly content ; the Duke renewing his vows to Mademoiselle

selle de Valois, which portion of his time, Mademoiselle Aimée fondly had depended, would have been devoted to her commands.

THIS mode devised by the Duke and Mademoiselle de Valois, proved of great convenience to their attachment; and the gratitude he felt occasionally was demonstrated, to the person, through whom, this facility was obtained.

THE regent, however, little addicted to jealousy, could not brook patiently, the continual obstruction, he met in his pursuits from the Duke. He complained of him, yet could not refrain admitting him into his intimacy, from the gay and convivial turn, he possessed. His displeasure nevertheless often broke out; engaged in a match at tennis one day with him, the ball struck into the Regent's eye, the pain was great, the game was interrupted, and he loudly exclaimed he could never hope for good fortune, where that devil of a man was concerned.

THE Abbé Dubois, pretended to equal cause of vexation. Wherever his choice was fixed the Duke perpetually was carrying off the prize, or preventing the Prelate's success. The latter avoided him, as much as was possible, and ven-

ted his ill humor, in murmurings of no avail.

MADMOISELLE de Valois, drew the attention of her father, and fearful of the importunity of his solicitation, she felt deeply afflicted. The Duke of Orléans, was soon persuaded, of his daughter's partiality to Richelieu; and concluding, such a connection existed, it required their prudence, with the aid of Mademoiselle Aimée, to use every future precaution, to escape detection.

THE Duke, at length, totally unmindful of every respect, due to the regent, pushed his audacity so far, as to carry away, from an entertainment, given at Auteuil, La Souris, a handsome young woman, to whom, it was known, he was partial, and defrayed the expence of her establishment.

THE Duke of Orléans, betrayed no symptom of displeasure on this occasion. He treated, the levity manifested, with too much disdain to notice it. Still, the Chronicle of that *Æra* records, that he was not sorry, of an opportunity, of punishing the Duke, afforded him, in the discovery of the Prince de Cellamare's conspiracy, Ambassador from Spain, in which, it was supposed, Richelieu, had become a party. Alberoni, whose genius had ele-

vated

vated him to such eminence, in Spain, was resolved to add to the brilliancy, of his political reputation by effecting a revolution, of which few could have entertained the idea of. Risen from a curacy, to the direction of the Spanish Monarchy, he managed its Government with vigor and ability, under Philip V. a Prince, as indolent as incapable and delegating to his minister, absolute power. This prelate, haughty and imperious, and equally, as dissatisfied, with the regent of France, as with George I. of England, planned at one stroke, to dethrone them both.

To carry, this scheme into execution, the Ambassador at Paris, had orders to concert measures, and unite to the views of Spain, all those disaffected to the Duke's regency. Matters however, were not ripe enough to commence; but England, having began the war, intercepted and beaten the fleet which was going to the succour of the army in Sicily, and threatened by France, he saw hesitation was useless, and peremptorily ordered the Ambassador to spring the mine.

THE Prince de Cellamare, possessing a thorough knowledge of mankind, was fully satisfied that the desire of novelty in some, and of hatred to the

regent's Government in others, would bring over a powerful party to his support; and in this he was not deceived. He proposed, in consequence, seizing the regent's person, when repairing to St. Cloud unattended, to dissipate the evening with his mistresses and favorites; and nothing but a want of common discretion in the Ambassador's Secretary, prevented his master, effecting this measure. This Secretary was to sup at the house of a celebrated Courtezan (*La Fillon,*) where having been waited for, he excused himself by mentioning, his delay had proceeded from an anxiety to close dispatches for Spain; which the Abbé Porto Carréro, nephew to the Cardinal of that name, and Montéléon, son of the Spanish Ambassador in England, were entrusted, and had set out with.

La Fillon, as others of her class in Paris, was in the good graces and pay of the regent. She conceived this intelligence might be of importance, and hastened with its communication. The regent already harboring suspicions of the Ambassador's conduct, expedited a courier with orders to overtake, stop, and search the travellers and their papers. The Ambassador, advised in time, of the measure adopted by the regent, concluded his scheme was frustrated, and immediately burning those papers

of serious moment, prepared a strong remonstrance to the purport of reclaiming such as had been seized. His memorial met with no attention. He was ordered to confine himself to his Hôtel, where a guard was placed; and thence transferred to Blois, from whence he was allowed to depart for Spain, on the arrival in France, of the Duke de St. Aignan, who had been Ambassador at that Court.

Of all those engaged in the plot, the Abbé Brigaut, was the person for whose safety the Ambassador was most anxious. He had been the carrier of the different papers to those interested in their perusal; in vain, did the Ambassador, on the first alarm being given, send him one hundred Louis, with his best horse, to accelerate his flight. He was made a prisoner between Nemours and Montargis.

The news soon reached the capital. Those, participating in the plot, apprehended with reason, their names being inserted at full length in the list of conspirators. The bastille was adding daily to her number. The Duchess of Maine, affected a tranquillity of mind, widely differing from her inward anxiety. Sceaux, her country house, had been a rendezvous, where the conspirators assem-

led; and although they only repaired there under cover of the night, and disguised, still it was possible, they might have been known.

HER fears proved not without foundation, an order was issued for the arrest of herself, her husband, the two Princes, their sons, and one daughter. The Regent's mandate was signified to her at Sceaux, and conveyed her to the citadel of Dijon. The warrant was served on the Duke, at Paris, the 29th December, 1718, where he was detained in confinement. The Prince de Dombe, with his brother the Count D'eu, were banished to the city of D'eu; Mademoiselle du Maine, to the convent of the visitation at Chaillot ; and the Cardinal de Polignac, an intimate of the family and principal actor, to his Abbey in Flanders; circumstances, clearly denoting, from the distance of their respective situations, that the hope of unravelling the whole of the plot, was not rested in the principles, but in their abettors.

THE Duchess of ***, informed amongst the first of the order given, relative to the Spanish Ambassador, sent the immediate intelligence to the Duke of Richelieu. Her friendship joined to a sense of the Duke's animosity against the regent, and of his

enterprizing

enterprizing spirit, capable of giving into undertakings the most desperate, led her, (without a knowledge of his being concerned in it) to use this precaution, which, from the result, displayed the strength of her judgement.

THE Duke, having refused his assent to the first proposals made, had in the end suffered his name to be enrolled, through the persuasion of Albéroni, who fully acquainted with his activity of mind, and capacity to execute, instructed the Ambassador to employ every means to gain him. Richelieu, however trusted, as he had signed no paper, proofs would be insufficient regarding him, and viewing, in a precipitate flight the direct avowal of his guilt, he preferred remaining on the spot, with the risk of hazarding his liberty, to that of quitting the kingdom, which must infallably have pronounced him criminal. An order from the King, was issued, for his imprisonment.

THE Abbé Dubois, to whom was confided the execution of this order, delighted in the opportunity of humiliating a man, whose preference to him had been odious, and accordingly had it enforced, by a train of the lowest officers attach-

ed to the Police. They conducted the Duke into one of the most loathsome prisons in the Bastille, and it was currently reported, the forfeit of his head would be required. The Regent, felt also the pleasure of removing a rival, so constantly impeding his pursuits; blessed however with a good heart, his dislike or prejudice was never lasting, and in favor of a man whose company he enjoyed, and whom he considered not very criminal, he soon relaxed in his resentment.

MADÉMOISELLE de Valois, alarmed by some hints dropped by her mother, of what was meditating against the Duke, conveyed him previous notice, by an express to that purport. The messenger arrived in time; but the Duke's resolution was fixed, to meet with patience and fortitude, what he disregarded, as of no consequence. Not acquainted with his sentiments, she was impressed with every possible anxiety for his safety; and these apprehensions were truly encreased, when she heard of his being arrested, and was informed of a letter having fallen into the hands of his enemy, Dubois, written to the Duke, by Albéroni.

RICHELIEU had been in treaty for the purchase of the King's regiment, from Mons. De Nangis,

but

but his offer having been rejected, or then found impracticable, he had remained at the head of the regiment bearing his name. This regiment was in garrison, at Bayonne ; and in his command of it, he had attained such a popularity with the officers and soldiers, that to a man, they felt the utmost devotion for his person. The other corps that served in this garrison, was commanded by a Colonel, named Du Saillant, equally beloved and respected ; and the Duke and him, being united in friendship, the former might have relied, from the disposition of both corps, on the most implicit obedience to his wishes.

IT rested with them alone, to open that key of the kingdom, to the Spaniards ; and Albèroni, sensible of the importance of this object, had signified his reliance on the Duke, for the execution of this service. This letter was intercepted, and of itself, was proof sufficient with Dubois, of the Duke being accessory to the plan proposed.

THE Commissaries, instructed to investigate, were, D'Argenson, Keeper of the Seals ; Le Blanc, Secretary of State, and Dubois. Madame de Staäl, a friend of the Duchess du Maine, and involved

in her disgrace, was a prisoner likewise, in the Bastille. She was a woman of great talents and wit, and humourously, (when the doors of the prison were thrown open to admit this delegated trio of judges), compared them to the three judges of hell,—Eacus, Minos, and Rhadamanthus.

FORTUNATELY, the papers seized from the Abbé Porto Carrero, did not inculpate seriously the conspirators. They manifested a zeal in the Ambassador, accompanied with great dependance, and general promises. The Duke du Maine, of whose participation in the plan, the public could not doubt, as so intimately connected with his and the Duchess' wishes, had been cautious enough to evade the direct proof of guilt, and the Ministry were baffled in their endeavours to substantiate the accusation. The Regent, insensible to every other pursuit, than his pleasures, innately mild and good natured, was excited to severity, by the Ministers of his government. It extended however, only, where the guilt was fully established, and, in the sufferers of this detected conspiracy, three or four persons in Brittany, were those alone, who expiated their treason, by a just forfeiture of their lives.— Other Princes, armed with the sovereign power, might not have been so lenient.

THE regent, bore a personal animosity to Alberoni—yet his revenge was manly. It was directed to an immediate declaration of war with that kingdom, of which he held the reins; and his Minister Dubois, was happy in supporting a measure of this tendency.—His devotion to the English was notorious, and the price of his acquiescence to George the First's views, was fixed, to be an annual pension of forty thousand Pounds Sterling. This combining, with the regent's desire to avenge the insult offered, secured the co-operation of France with England in a war, impolitic and destructive to the former.

THE Duke of Richelieu, favourite of the graces, in a Court where their influence so much prevailed, and the idol of the sex, he adored, could not be in great apprehension that his confinement would be of long duration. Effectively, Mademoiselle de Charolais, with her Cousin de Valois, however rivals in affection, united their interposition, to accelerate his delivery. They suspended in this moment, an inveteracy, which had broken out in the most malicious squibs and bitter satires, to vie with each other in endeavors to procure the release of their beloved object. Mademoiselle de Valois, had been informed, that, during the Duke's confinement in the Bastille, for his Duel with the Count de Nocé,

her cousin had found means to penetrate in its recesses, and she wished for a guide to conduct her to similar interviews; and Mademoiselle de Charolois, equally sensible of her cousin's ascendancy on the mind of her father, saw how much a mutual and well concerted harmony would tend, to their reciprocal advantage on this occasion. Money in 1718, retaining the same value as it held in 1716, was determined to be employed to a similar intent. De Launay, then Governor of the Prison, corrupted by the influence of Mademoiselle de Valois' Bank Notes, obtained from her father's liberality, clandestinely admitted the entrance of these Princesses, introducing them to the Duke's cell.

INDEPENDENT of the pleasure their presence inspired Richelieu with, he derived from their attention additional comfort in his situation. They brought into the prison every thing that could conduce to soften the rigour of his confinement. Thanks and protestations were exchanged; and the thoughts of his being a prisoner were dispelled, till the necessity of his visitors departing, convinced him of the horrors of his solitude.

IN this little council was debated and determined, the province of each, to accomplish the end in view,

view, Mademoiselle de Valois took upon herself to reiterate her solicitations to her father, whom earnest prayer and importunity, it was hoped, would induce at length, to assent.

THE ladies retiring, promised to repeat their visits, and it was settled between them, that according to the joint interest which had caused the basis of their union, neither should endeavour to see the Duke apart. This unpleasant article each sought to elude, and a discovery occurring, they suppressed their resentment, to continue in an unremitting exertion, of the principal point yet to be attained. A ray of hope and of speedy realization, redoubled their entreaties. The regent granted liberty to the Governor, to transfer his prisoner to a better apartment, and permitted also of his walking an hour or two, on the ramparts.

THE news of this indulgence spreading abroad, the street of St. Antoine was crowded with carriages, at the hour it was known, the prisoners to whom such condescension extended, generally appeared to breathe the fresh air. The Duke had the satisfaction of seeing that his confinement was noticed by his friends, and the Ladies in particular, gave every sign from their carriages, how much they deplored,

that a man so essential to their society, should have been forced from them. The Duke shewed as far as gesture could express, a sense of their attention.

IN process of time, the parties by mutual signs, fixed a language, conveying a comprehension of several very expressive sentences. Such as, "I am firm in my attachment," "be you constant in your's," "the regent continues obstinate," "no danger however exists, but every sorrow to us from the privation of your agreeable company," &c. &c.

THE carriage of his friend the Dutchess of ***, never missed ranging in the procession. Unacquainted with the nature of the Regent's sentiments, her fears were great. She thought the beheading of him was resolved, and such an idea bereft her almost of existence.

THE Princesses who had paved their way to him, in a more effectual manner, never were seen mixing with the crowd ; and as their attachment cou'd not be doubted, they suffered the reproach of insensibility, from their apparent neglect.

MONTHS having elapsed, and no prospect of a termination, the Duke's spirits began to fail, notwithstanding the frequent visits he received from

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the Princesses, each of which visits materially improved the sagacious Governor's revenue. His exactions were in proportion to the favor granted, and had it not been for the excessive partiality, of the father to his daughter, the Regent must have been impressed, that a certain reason existed, to occasion such prodigality of money in Mademoiselle de Valois.

This young Lady's situation was deserving of compassion. The Regent, sensible of the passionate desire she entertained for the Duke's enlargement, annexed a condition, such as could not well be supposed. Scruples arose, and the combat excited in her mind, for sometime prevailed. The Duke's liberation however being the alternative, she consented to the sacrifice, and even imparted it to him, with all the remorse she felt in acceding.

THE regent was exact in the performance of his word. The prison doors were thrown open; but as the Duke's pretence at court, would still be obnoxious, he ordered his retiring to Charenton. Another Lettre de Cachet exiled him to St. Germain en Laye, where in the precise limits of that place, narrow in its extent, he was compelled, by obedi-

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ence to absolute power, to confine himself for the space of three months.

In all probability, other successive *lettres de cachet* would have been issued, transferring him from place to place, a miserable object of the lassitude he endured, in being separated from that capital, the centre of his pleasure and attraction, had not Mademoiselle de Valois' marriage, with the Duke of Modena, fortunately at that moment, been projected. This sincere friend, attached her consent, to an exclusive pardon and liberation being accorded the Duke ; and in which condition, she succeeded.

BEFORE this Princess quitted the kingdom, Richelieu had frequent opportunities to pour forth his gratitude, and the moments they enjoyed, were such as the sincerity of attachment alone creates. They parted, not without regret, and the Princess obtained readily his promise, of visiting her in her principality. Unhappily for this amiable pair, the Duke of Modena, soon after his marriage, was satisfied of the attachment that had reigned between them, and resolved to obstruct or frustrate their future meetings.

CHAP. VII.

*DEATH OF MADAME DE MAINTENON,—OF THE DUTCHESS
OF BERRY,—DISGRACE OF CARDINAL ALBERONI.*

In this year, 1719, died at St. Cyr, on the 15th of April, Madame de Maintenon, in a very advanced age. Her apparent piety in erecting this religious foundation, obtained her the regret and bountiful praise of those, admitted to partake of its benefit. Her age, and that religious turn, which had caused such detriment, when she directed the operations of Government, had acquired her, both respect and veneration. Confined to this cloyster, and not commanding the su-

bordination

bordination of any person to its dictates, it met that applause natural to the narrow sphere in which it was displayed and professed. She left the world with a mind composed and beloved, satisfied in her dying moments, that she had been instrumental to the salvation of Lewis XIV. by persuading him into the measure of extirpating heresy from his kingdom, and of countenancing only those of the true catholic faith. If a doubt had assailed her conscience, at this moment, of its rectitude; the confessors, to whom their banishment was pleasing, would have reconciled her's as they did the Monarch's, to its sanctified propriety.

MADAME de Berry, only survived her a few months—She expired a martyr, at a very early period, to the dissolute life she had led. The regent, who had too much participated in it, felt too late the regret; and on those to whom he had before been indifferent, he exercised, at her death, an unmerited severity.—This Princess' Maid of Honor was banished, and the Count de Riom obliged, after abdicating his government of Meudon, and other public employments he held, to repair and join the army in Spain.

THE loss of this Princess cost no tear to the nation, not even was the sensibility excited, of those, who had been favored by her. Abandoned to the greatest irregularity, and of a malicious disposition, she had not made one friend. Her maxim was, "a life no matter how short, provided every enjoyment was reaped." In this, she was indulged, for her career was ended in the flower of her age. The public, indignant at her excesses, considered her premature death, as a punishment of heaven.

THIS was the reign, for adventurers, (men of no pretensions,) to succeed in Spain; sons of coachmen and gardeners, were Cardinals, and at the head of the Church.—In France, those issuing from apothecary's and goldsmith's shops, were at the head of the Government. Such were Dubois and Law, the one Comptroller General, the other Cardinal. Fortune also in her caprice enacted that religion should bear a part in their advancement. Law renounced Calvinism, when Dubois was consecrated Archbishop. The public were not duped; perfectly acquainted with the nature of these men, she justly conceived that these outward ceremonies, would neither tend to make the one a good Catholic, or the other a devout Bishop.

ONE of these men elevated to such eminence in the Church, early in his political career was sacrificed—this was Alberoni, who could not stem the torrent of displeasure engendered against his administration, by France, Germany, and England united. His plan against the Regent having been averted, he could no longer flatter the Queen of Spain, in the hope she had entertained of reigning in France. This expectation ceasing, his services were soon forgotten. He fell a victim to political consideration, as no tie of gratitude, in such an exalted being existed any longer, than he could be rendered useful ; this faithful servant of the Queen, to whose will he had been devoted, received an unexpected mandate to quit Spain in two days, without taking leave of either the King or Queen, or permission allowed even to address them in writing.

THIS man displayed in his administration very superior ability. Nature, however unusual with those of his extraction, had endowed him with great force of genius, which in its progress equalled the capacity conferred by the most refined and cultivated education. In the short period of his

government

government he had shewn that Spain, if well administered, must bear a very considerable proportion in the scale of the balance of power; he adopted for his model the system of Cardinal de Richelieu, but the latter's sway was exercised under a different master, and times, varying in their similitude. Richelieu only resigned with his last breath the reins of Government. Albéroni, to whom the same consideration was due, as long as the sceptre remained, in the hands of those who had felt its importance during his administration, was dismissed through the weakness and disappointment of a woman, rather than exiled from any misconduct in his public situation. He traversed France after leaving Spain, accompanied by an officer, whom the Regent had directed to watch, and attend on his person. Genoa, refused him an asylum—Rome interdicted his approach in her community. Thus baffled, in his intentions to settle for the remainder of his life, he disguised himself and for sometime sought refuge in the Emperor's dominions. Driven to this vagrant state, he received and accepted with joy the Pope's summons to become his legate in Romagna. Such is the vicissitude of this world.

CHAP. VIII.

LAW'S SYSTEM,—ATTACHMENTS OF RICHELIEU TO THE
DUTCHESSES OF VILLEROI, AND DE DURAS—HIS RECEP-
TION AND ADMISSION AS A MEMBER OF THE FRENCH
ACADEMY.

JOHN Law, a native of Scotland, exiled from his country, took refuge first in Italy, then in France. Possessed of considerable address, he succeeded in persuading the regent to embrace a project he had devized of establishing a general Bank. However the proposal had been rejected in those states he had quitted;—novelty, and that discredit to

which

which the paper in currency and the state securities, issued for the debts of Lewis XIV. had fallen, operated to favor this new experiment. On these, an immoderate discount prevailed whilst on the stock of the Bank a considerable premium arose. The public were the victims of this deception, the state was enriched and freed from the debts, she had contracted, by the redemption of the former paper at the loss it bore, the treasury exchanging for it these notes of ideal and arbitrary value. The property of individuals, sunk in two thirds of its amount. The rage for this speculation was excessive, and in the expectations of the encreasing rise of agio, was every thought directed. The regent initiated into its mystery, suffered its generation, perfectly indifferent to the many fortunes that would be involved in its abyss.

A GENERAL phrenzy reigned—The desire of rapidly accumulating immense riches, pervaded every description of people in the capital, and extended its baneful effects throughout the country. Paris was overrun by citizens crowding from all parts; no class of people were exempted; the price of this fictitious stock filled every mouth, and suspended, the artist's, labourer's and manufacturer's employments.

THE luxury displayed by Lewis XIV. had hitherto been confined to the capital and the residence of the court. But those attracted by the magnificence he had displayed in his buildings, and conceiving the riches they had acquired as inexhaustible, raised palaces on their estates to vie in grandeur with the Monarchs.

An end to this illusion was inevitable. On the 21st of May, 1720, an edict of government reduced, these actions de Banque or stock, to one half of their value. This was the result of Law's fallacy, in which the regent joined to delude the nation. Such reduction was the natural effect of the quantity of paper circulated, which amounting by the calculation made to double the amount of the currency in the kingdom, could otherwise not have retained any sterling value—a general bankruptcy occurred, for the disaster was indefinite ; clamours arose against the projector ; the regent, on the first emotions of discontent, tried to appease by pledging himself for his exile; these, time having dispelled, the promise was forgotten ; Law was reinstated, and the multitude were told that his financial abilities could alone repair the loss sustained. Accordingly, they submitted with

equal

equal ease to another edict, prohibiting any individual from harbouring in his house, more than five hundred livres in specie. The parliament, whose good will he had courted, when intent on reclaiming his rights and whom, for this support, he had rehabilitated in the right and exercise of the privilege of remonstrating against the sovereign will, no longer, was an object of attention, than the necessity of their support existed. He treated them as his predecessors, vested with kingly authority, had done, and in a similar contemptuous manner signed his mandatory letters, exiling them to Pontoise.— In eight successive months three and thirty edicts appeared, proceeding from the wisdom of the council unimpeded in its deliberations. These were, enacting an arbitrary valuation on gold, on silver, jewels, limiting the quantity of plate, augmenting occasionally the value of the stock, then debasing it, facilitating the means of splitting it into shares ; prescribing the mode of this operation, transferring, registering, and finally detailing the simple one, how accounts with the bank were to be held and specified. Such futile attempts could not palliate the severe blow given.—Misery and lamentation was universal, and to this general

misfortune,

misfortune, the kingdom felt, was, to be regretted other calamities. At Marseilles, the plague had caused great desolation, and half of the town of Rennes was destroyed by fire. These accumulated evils, were enough to sink every resource which the kingdom internally yielded, and long did France groan from their effect. Nevertheless, the author of these disasters was to exercise the benefits of protection. The regent insensible to the people's cries, from the misery he had enacted, by the introduction of his pernicious scheme, permitted his quitting the kingdom without molestation.

THE Duke of Richelieu, enjoying an immense income from the revenue of his entailed estates, had not plunged, so as to affect him, into this visionary scheme: occupied in the pleasure of contemplating his agreeable transition, from the dungeons of the Bastille to the dissipation of a Court, he soon renewed those pursuits, which a confinement had given a new zest to, and consoling himself with the loss of Mademoiselle de Valois, become Duchess of Modena, he sought other objects worthy of his attention, prescribing an entire exclusion to such to whom it was notorious the regent was attached; his seclusion from the world, had effected this reformation, and rein-

stated in the Regent's favor, he resolved not to give fresh umbrage. Mademoiselle de Charolcis, valued herself on this change in his deportment, and his attachment to that Lady for some time appeared univalled.

THE Dutchesse of***, ever indulgent and esteeming the Duke notwithstanding his levity, was constant in her friendship, and became the person in whom he alone confided. She had of late dedicated much of her time to the country, and Nantes was the place where Richelieu often repaired to solace in such enjoyment. In this charming retreat, he was sure of meeting a constant assembly of agreeable women, and this was enough to induce his residence.

IN this circle he had the pleasure of first seeing the young Marchioness of Duras, * she was handsome, gay, sprightly, and much attached to her husband. The latter, a stranger to her charms, neglected the opportunity that offered of conjugal felicity, he suffered the addresses of others to intervene, and when too late, was convinced of the fatal error, he had committed.

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* Mother of the Marechal de Duras, who died in 1789.

THE Duke, fixed at that period by Madame de Villeroy, was however not insensible to the young Marchioness, and in the absence of the former, was profuse of his attention. She was pleased in observing the impression, she had made.—Her innocent mind drew a dangerous contrast between an absent and indifferent husband, and an amiable lover at her feet. The sentiments of esteem soon yielded to a more passionate attachment, and a susceptibility of jealousy, from his preference to Madame de Villeroy, soon created the intention of supplanting her rival.

THE Duke, perfectly versed in the conduct he had to observe, profited of the former, only by frequent excursions to Paris; and if the object for these journeys could have been doubted, Madame D'Egmont on a visit to the Dutches of ***, elucidated the mystery. She declared having seen him in attendance on the Dutches, at the Opera, at Madame de Villars's, at her father in law's, the Mareschal de Villeroy's; and added, it was an attachment, proclaimed in all Paris.

EVERY word was a dagger in the heart of the tender Marchioness. She concluded, herself, was not the sole object of his attachment, and that those protestations she received, were often the portion of another. Such a thought distressed her. She could

not

not bear, notwithstanding the conviction, to deem him insincere. She knew Madame de Villeroi, and in those moments of unpleasing reflection, she felt her rival's advantage, and detesting the means she had employed, despaired, that herself could captivate. After indulging in this melancholy, hope revived; she saw her own accomplishments in a new light, and resolved to display them, with a view of securing the wanderer.

THE Marchioness' sentiments did not escape the penetration of the Duchess of ***, who anxious that her young friend should evade the snare, herself had fallen into, represented Richelieu, in his true colors. Unfortunately, the picture, presented to her imagination, was too late to divert the effect, the original had made. The Duchess ***, knew her precautions, however sincere, ought to have been more early; and far from being excited by any motive of jealousy, accustomed herself to see with complacence this additional rival, in the person of her young friend.

THESE amiable women, feeling the sincerest attachment to each other, the Marchioness disclosed her danger of succumbing; and the Duchess of ***, used every persuasion possible, to retard, at least her inevitable destiny.

BUT Richelieu soon discerned the agitation of the Marchioness' mind, and was fully persuaded that an opportunity alone was wanting to subdue that restraint which prevailed.

EFFECTIVELY, the chimney having taken fire one night, alarmed the whole of the Ladies inhabiting the Castle ; the Marchioness de Duras, appearing to testify the most apprehension, the Duke arrived that evening from Paris, and however fatigued with his journey, shewed uncommon assiduity in endeavoring to dispel the terror, this accident had created.

THE Marchioness, incommoded from the anxiety her spirits had undergone, retired sooner than usual to her apartment. The Duke's politeness accompanied, and the Marchioness however determined to resist his importunities, was obliged, from deference to étiquette at that moment, to admit the person so instrumental in her recovery. Compliments succeeded; inclination prevailed—he pressed to stay; but the Marchioness collected from her surprise, rejected the offer, and he sought consolation in the company of the Duchess of ***.

THE Marchioness intimidated in the course of the preceding evening, felt on the next day those

scruples

scruples obviated. Having enjoyed one interview with the Duke, she looked for others ; and fearful by her refusal of continuing the visit, so long as his wishes had led him to expect, that she had displeased him; she was solicitous of an explanation.

RICHELIEU, on the contrary, wished for none at that moment, and was proof against every allure-
ment.—He withdrew to his apartment, and presented himself only the next evening to excuse his inatten-
tion. He was easily forgiven, and to facilitate future interviews, it was devized that the person who attended the Marchioness should be removed.

HERSELF, a novice in these matters, could not find any mode to answer the end wished; but Richelieu fertile in expedient, soon persuaded her to give out, that her woman disturbed her repose, from a propensity to walking in her sleep, which had often been the cause of exceeding alarm to the Marchio-
ness, but which her goodness and partiality had for-
given.

IN vain the poor girl, protested her repose was in her idea never disquieted ; expressing her sorrow for the trouble occasioned, and actually taking to heart having disturbed her Mistress, that the latter was obliged to comfort her by presents, and an affu-

rance,

rance her mind was incapable of prejudice, for a misfortune it was out of her power to remedy; but which, her friend, the Dutchiefs of ***, would ; by the kindness of consigning her to a distant apartment, into which she was in future to retire, at the hours of rest.

THE Duke, having secured the attachment of Madame de Duras, was in momentary expectation of a message from Madame de Villeroi. The instant of M. de Villeroi's absence was the signal fixed for their meeting. La Fosse, a servant of the Duke's, and of great confidence, arrives at Mantes, with a billet, denoting a hasty summons. Richelieu, unprepared for so speedy an event, thinks of feigning sickness; but recollecting how this pretext had in his attachment with the Princess of ***; subjected him to her importunate attentions, dead-ed he should alike be compelled to yield to the same martyrdom; and calling to his mind the serious illness of Le Marquis de Dangeau, he abruptly took leave, to present himself at the academy, for the apparent vacancy.

A RESOLUTION so worthy of himself, was applauded by the Marchionels. In the hope of his elevation, she felt the dignity of her choice; and ready-

ly

ly yielded an assent, which had a very different motive, to the ostensible one professed.

RICHELIEU flew to the appointment indicated ; and the parties, availed themselves of the present liberty, afforded mutual inclinations, to compensate for a severe restraint, they had endured, imposed by the unremitting vigilance of Monsieur de Villeroi.

MADAME de Charolois, overjoyed with his return, intimated her intention of dancing with him, at a ball given by the Court ; and to one appointment, another succeeded ; but amidst this career, Richelieu was not insensible to the pursuit of ambition. Aged only twenty-four years, he aspired in earnest to be a candidate, for the first vacant place in the academy.—The name he bore certainly facilitated his admission. Descended from the founder of that respectable institution, he t' ought the academicians, might venture a step in his favor. His individual pretensions were limited, to his being a Nobleman of great figure and high birth, and endowed with pleasantry of conversation, wit, and force of innate genius, not much cultivated by literature. In what regarded the deficiency which he well knew, he paraphrased in an application to his situation, that maxim of Corneilles'.

“ THAT

" THAT souls of innate worth, are born with
an heroic valour."

THE Marquis of Dangeau dies, and by an unanimous concurrence the Duke was nominated to his seat. Immediately the literati of the age were set in motion, who should have the honor of composing the Oration, he was to pronounce on his entrance. Fontenelle, always solicitous for the favor of the great, took the pen on this occasion; Destouches and Campistron, followed the example: and the Duke, who had assigned them no task, was pleased in having none himself, and only felt embarrassed to which of these oracles, he should give a preference.

Thus, not knowing what choice to make, he corrected what he thought deficient in theirs', and with the lights afforded him, pronounced of himself a discourse, which, though less eloquent than either of theirs', was deemed more concise; and being more adapted to the man, the public received it as the effusion of his genius.

IN the sketches, left by him of this celebrated oration, are discovered a barrenness of idea, no logic, and no precision in orthography.

THE aim of the speech was directed to applaud Lewis XIV. and a few sentences contained in the discourse evince how strongly impressed, he was with the grandeur of that Monarch.—This is an Extract of it.

“ IT was reserved (he said) for the glory of the Academy and the completion of this happy institution of the Cardinal de Richelieu’s, that the greatest Monarch on earth should honor the Academy with his protection. It was but in the order of things, that a Prince under whose auspices, literature and the arts, had arrived to such eminence, should be fixed at the head of that situation which his own talents merited. Louis, justly surnamed, Le Grand, wished that, which constituted this greatness, should spread, and its benefit be felt universally. This motive guided him in aspiring to raise his kingdom to a pre-eminence in point of literature and taste, as well, as to create an ascendancy, in the dread of its warlike power. Great in his military operations, and successful in adding conquered dominions to his state, he was desirous, that the latter should not in any respect influence the general order and

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“ tranquillity

"tranquillity, which reigned throughout the king-dom."

THE Duke, moreover added, in speaking of this same Prince:—"I will say," (says he) that "I have seen this King, unite, to the proudest and most unconquerable spirit, the goodness and meekness of the father of a family. His Court has been the asylum of unfortunate Princes. Never King ascended the throne, in a moment of greater splendor attached to his dignity; and yet no King can equal him for an easy access to his person. Ever ready to attend to the complaints of the meanest of his subjects; he was happy in the opportunity afforded him for doing justice personally. He had so graceful a method of dispensing his favors, that they appeared coming from him, to those who obtained them, as double the value of what they had solicited. Respected by his subjects, the terror of his enemies, adored by his servants, he died with the courage of a Christian and of an hero, lamented by his kingdom, and the admiration of all Europe." Had this Monarch never been the cause of unhappiness to his people, no greater tribute of praise could have been lavished. Richelieu

however

however thought, what he said ; Louis XIV. in his sentiments, was the greatest Prince that ever reigned.

THOSE Ladies, so much his admirers, prepared to assist in the lustre of his reception ; few candidates had assembled such a concourse. The speech ascribed, as emanating from him, appeared to them, a wonderful effect of genius ; and they felt honored in being known and connected with a man of so refined an education, and admirable talents.

CROWNED with literary laurels, the tiara of the Goddesses was awaiting him, with the congratulations that poured from all quarters. Mademoiselle de Charolois, and Mesdames de Duras, and de Villeroy, intimated their wish that he should attend to receive their's in person. Richelieu, proud of his new dignity, and of the further destination intended, accepted their invitations, and the triple crown was accorded him deservedly.

FATIGUED with having aspired and obtained these dignities, he withdrew for some days from the applause of his friends and the public ; whilst his equipage obeying his directions, paraded daily in the

different streets, of his accustomed resort, carrying an appearance and belief in the world, of his being any where, than at home, and invisible.

CHAP. IX.

JOURNEY OF THE DUKE TO MODENA—ADVENTURE IN A CONVENT, WHERE HE WAS ADMITTED TO SEE MADAME DE VILLEROI, DISGUISED EN ABBE.

THE Duke of Richelieu since the Princess' departure for Modena, had received several letters, reminding him of his protestations. She, at the same time apprized him that her husband was fully sensible of the attachment that had existed, whilst at her father's Court ; and suggested the propriety of using the utmost caution, in case the Duke, not forgetting his promises, intended her the favor of a visit. She

urged

urged pressingly a performance thereof, but recommended his coming under an assumed habit. The Duke, to whom obstacles were only a fresh incitement, resolved immediately to make the trial, and projected a plan to repair to Modena.

He quits Paris without any retinue, and soon arrives at the place of his destination. La Fosse, his confident, the only one of his servants accompanying him, had agreeable to previous direction, furnished himself with all the Pamphlets, Almanacks, Literary Journals, Anecdotes and Satires of the times. They descend at an Inn in the city, the Duke, by the name of Gasparini, and the faithful La Fosse, by that of Romano, denominating their profession, as itinerant retailers of Books and other Pedlary.—The assertion is credited.—The travellers are so announced, and their first day's amusement is devoted to surveying the Palace, buildings of the city, &c.

THE Princess, was advised of his arrival, but not of the disguise he had taken. She knew however that on her passage to the mass she would have a sight of him. Accordingly, early on the next morning, our two pedlars hasten to take their station and spreading their books for sale ; attract an im-

mediate croud, and Romano, by the disposal of them finds his advantage in the disguise. The Prince's appears, and Gasparini putting aside all those who might obstruct a view of him, forces himself in her way, presents her with books, which she only slightly notices, and passes forward.

THE Duke, in despair of not having been recognized, was hammering, on what next scheme to adopt. None of equal hope presenting to his imagination, he took every measure to be more successful on the Princess' return. The comedy, he had ventured upon the representation of, pleased him no longer, than he could trust, to the issue being satisfactory. The Duke of Modena wished for an heir to his dominions, and it was destined the presence of Richelieu, should operate, as a charm in effectuating his desire.

MADAME de Modena, not so surrounded by her attendants, on coming from Mass, took more leisure in examining the Traveller's Books, fixed her regard on the Duke, spoke to Romano, enquired of him if he was well supplied with them, and from what country he came. Then addressing herself to Richelieu, observed, how desirous she was for a French Book, that she did not perceive

in their collection. The answer was ready, it had been left behind at their Inn; and in half an hour he would present it to her highness, which assurance, after an appearance of disappointment, obtained an order for the Merchant's admission to her apartment with the said Book.

THE Duke hastens to his Inn, seizes the first edition that offers, and on the wing of impatience flies to the Palace, where every compensation awaited him, for the fatigue of his journey. His disguise, and the risk he incurred of being known in the state of a Prince, addicted to the defect in his countrymen, suspecting the Duke, and dreading him as a rival.

THE Princess was lavish in the tribute of gratitude—Gasparini, appeared to her as amiable as Richelieu, however unfavorable, the disguise in its contrast, was to his figure and appearance. She apprehended a discovery, and anxious after a short interview, for his taking leave, intimated the Duke of Modena's intention to go into the country within two days to hunt, when she should be more at leisure to examine his catalogue, and to peruse some of his best works.

GASPARINI, was punctual to the hour appointed, furnished with select editions. The Dutchels had prepared her cabinet, consecrated to study, and adorned with emblematical figures, for his reception; and gave orders that as she relied on the sagacity of the merchant, to unravel their mystery, she might be uninterrupted in her design. Her servants, attentive to her wishes, obeyed; and she was left in the enjoyment of every leisure, to acquire the most profound knowledge. In directing the Duke's attention to a little altar, containing two hearts entwined by a tress of beautiful hair, which she had taken an opportunity formerly of possessing herself of, she renewed those vows, she had so often professed, and declaring, since her separation, a worship to that only token, had been her sole consolation.

The Duke was not remiss in his assurances, and was disposed to indulge the Princess in the hope she entertained, that he would not quit Modena, without a certainty, of the intention being fulfilled, that conducted him to that court; an unforeseen incident, however, accelerated his departure.

WHILST delighting in the pleasure of study one day with Gasparini, a sudden noise was heard. It was the Duke, returning from the amusements of the

chase, sooner than his usual hour, and having enjoyed very good sport, was hastening to his wife's apartment, to impart the cheerful tidings; Gasparini saw the Princess' agitation, desired she would compose herself, and rest confidently, on his presence of mind, to extricate them, from apparent embarrassment.

THE Prince enters the closet, in the moment, that Gasparini with the books under his arms, was respectfully withdrawing from the Princess, assuring her that the books she had done him the honor to command, he would produce on the morrow. The Duke, eyeing him attentively, orders his stay, observing, his wish, to question him in regard to the traffick he carries on. Richelieu, replies to every question, with the most decided firmness and address. His language, half French, half Italian, the Prince asks him again the place of his birth? A Piedmontese, is the reply.

AFTER many questions, of nearly the same tendency, the Prince enquires, if he has ever been at Paris? The answer is affirmative, and that in that celebrated city his commerce had been extensive, till the Satires against Law's system, and the Pamphlets replete with Anecdotes of the intrigues of Dubois, the mode he had been consecrated Arch-

bishop

bishop of Cambray, having gone through his noviciate and other degrees so rapidly, as to excite the remarks of the wits of the Court, “that the day of his consecration was the day of his first communion,” and an observation of his own, “that baptism was alone wanting to qualify him for his sacred office,” had exasperated the new Archbishop, who ordering the retailer of these impressions, to be conveyed to the Bicêtre, he had the good luck of being advised in time, and hastened to decamp. That this had induced his Journey into Italy, supplicating his Highness’ protection during his sojournment.

THE Dutchesse, anxious to see him quit the room, felt some relief to the perturbation of her mind, in the boldness of his recital, and the appearance of truth and candor, his answers given with much ease, and no hesitation, bore. The Duke seemed interested, and prolonging the conversation, interrogated him, if these Pamphlets, Satires, &c. had met a ready sale, with those noblemen of the Court, secret enemies of the regent, and abhorring the Archbishop, the principal spring in the regency? The Merchant, perfectly acquainted, with those of this description, treated the Duke with many amusing anecdotes respecting the several actors, the

publicity of which, had not been general. The intercourse becoming more animated, the Duke interrogated him relative to the Duke of Richelieu, and if that Nobleman had been one of his purchasers? The other, assured him, this Nobleman invariably was one of his best customers, that nothing new appeared, without his requiring an edition, and that himself often had been honored with the Duke of Richelieu's familiar conversation in these moments of audience, in as unreserved a manner, as his Highness now conferred the honor upon him.

THE Duke of Modena delighted, in finding a man who had so much personal knowledge of him, of whom he entertained such suspicion; and of whom he had heard so much spoken, proceeded.

“ I REGRET much, (says the Duke,) that I did not see this extraordinary man, during my short residence at Paris. I was once in a supper with him, but the company were numerous, and himself seated at a great distance, he did not then command much of my attention. Have you been in the way of hearing related any of his adventures? Are they as true and as multiplied as report affirms?” “ My Lord, (says Richelieu,) I have heard it asserted with confidence, that he

“ was

" was in the good graces of the first women of the
 " court, even that he had been distinguished by the
 " Princesses, and in short that no man could equal
 " him in his talent of carrying his point with the sex.
 " Paris echoed in singling him out, as the man of
 " the most gallant reputation; and thousands of
 " stories were related, of his inimitable address,
 " in deceiving mothers of families, and husbands."
 " He must certainly be clever, fascinating, and
 " artful," observed the Prince. " To that de-
 " gree," rejoined the other, " that in case he had
 " hazarded a wager, of coming into this Palace, in
 " search of extraordinary adventure, and conse-
 " quently against your highness' knowledge, I would,
 " if permitted, beg leave to stand the half of the bet,
 " in a certainty of the success, that would attend his
 " undertaking." " Oh ! oh ! that surely would be too
 " much out of the common order of things, and
 " I would readily defy all his cleverness and art, to
 " dupe me on such an occasion." The merchant
 withdrew, after receiving the Prince's commands,
 to bring him some of the books, they had been en-
 tertaining themselves with, at the same time, he was
 to come, with those, the Princess had ordered.
 Returned to his Inn, full of the pleasant scene that

had

had passed, we may judge, how his vanity triumphed in this double gratification.

HE obeyed on the next day the Prince's order, and a conversation, similar to the preceding days, occurred. Richelieu, and the Dutchesse recapitulated some days after the substance of both. Necessity however obliged their separation. Fresh assurances were given of eternal regard, and the Dutchesse by a visit to Paris, promised a return of the Duke's attention, in having favored her with one at Modena.

RICHELIEU, retook the road to Paris with pleasure, where new triumphs awaited him. In fact, he began to be heartily tired with the part he had played, and would have been happy to have extricated himself before, had not, complacency for the Dutchesse, caused him to give her more of his time, than at first he intended. His friends, and the sex, participating in his welfare, conjectured that he was at Richelieu, and detained upon particular business. Sensible how little he could think of the pleasures of the country, contrasted with those prevailing in the gaiety of a court; they partook of the melancholy, they knew must assail him, devoted however temporarily to such a situation. All his letters from Modena came under cover to one man in Paris, who

forwarding

forwarding them in an additional cover to another of his confidants at Richelieu, the latter separated them and returned them to the capital, according to their respective address.

THE lassitude that had prevailed the gay circle since his absence, gave place to general joy upon his return, and his address was exerted to answer with becoming gallantry every invitation, he received. He had written to the Dutches of Villeroi, which letter her father in law, much attached to her, had intercepted; no further proof was wanting, to convince him in the idea he had entertained of this partiality existing. He awaited the Duke's return to Paris, to convey a sense to them of the impropriety. The opportunity soon occurred. Richelieu, was seen by the Mareschal retiring at night from the Dutches' house. The parents of both, were assembled, and by an united concurrence, the young Dutches was remanded to the air of a convent, and the family proclaimed that the order had arisen, from an improper and inconsiderate jealousy, in the Duke, her husband.

SCARCELY could she find the moment of apprising Richelieu of the harsh and inhuman resolution, which set a limit to that enjoyment, she had flatter-

ed her young mind, with an uninterrupted continuance of; affected by her absence, he turned with regret from this melancholy sensation, to contemplate anew the attractions of Madame de Duras and of Mademoiselle de Charolois ; with the charms, of a new acquaintance, in Mademoiselle le Gendre.

Two Months elapsed without the possibility of her genius effecting an interview. This moment was expected with impatience, and having found means to communicate by Billet to Richelieu, the hope that palliated the misery of her confinement, he awaited the notice, prepared to surmount all obstacle. When once, a Woman is determined, on seeing the object she favors, the means are easy to her contrivance, and in this instance, they soon offered. In the same convent, with the Dutchesse, was a Cousin of her's, equally immured in this unpleasant seclusion, from too close a suspected intimacy with the Prince of ***. These two Ladies' wishes accorded, and this congeniality occasioned an unreserved consultation, the issue of which, was to intimate to their Gentlemen, that on an ensuing religious commemoration, when the Nuns, would be known to be occupied more than usual, and the boarders in the indulgence of great-

er liberty, to present themselves at the convent, disguised *en Abbés*. A curate of the place, at whose house they put up, was by the influence of bribery and protection, prevailed upon to introduce them to the Abbess, on that day, as Nephews to the Clergyman of Jouy, the superior, or head priest of the Convent.

A TITLE of this nature, insured them a distinguished reception; the Abbess shewed great kindness, and particularly from their appearance was prepossessed in their favor. It happened, on that day, the Preacher through sickness or neglect, omitted his attendance. Our young Abbés were addressed, to supply the omission, by a short sermon of their composition. In vain, did they protest, not having it in their power to comply, on so sudden an intimation. The Abbess insisted, observing, it would be an act of piety, exercised in the great parlour, where the concourse would be limited; and she could not possibly admit of a reason or objection, that either versed and educated in religious practices, could not, on so solemn an occasion, pronounce a suitable and devout discourse. They argued, they had none prepared; but still persisting, and the Abbess particularly referring to Richelieu,

he felt obliged to solicit a temporary suspension, announcing, that after having collected himself, his sermon would advert, to the Blessings of Plenty.

His elocution was fluent and graceful, and added to the ease and elegance of his figure, the good devotees were perfectly satisfied with his discourse, and even wondered, how unprepared, he could perform in the pulpit so well. Indeed, Richelieu himself, owned his surprise to his friend and companion; that he had not uttered greater nonsense. The sermon ended, they adjourned to a parlour, where the Dutchess and her Cousin already were seated. Our Abbés were presented, complimented, and the respect of the Nuns for those persons, occasioned, from a fear of intrusion, that part of the audience to withdraw. The Abbess requested permission to absent herself to give some orders; and the Curate, their Introductor, concluded likewise, his company would be dispensed with. The four found themselves at full liberty, and considering the moments as precious, they resolved, that to two, should be assigned the task of watching, whilst the other pair retired to impart, what a long separation dictated; and in this pleasing and uninterrupted manner, did they relieve each other, alternately.

THE Abbess had been busied in preparing a collation for the young Abbés, which these ladies were to partake of, and general felicity reigned. Their repast was so convivial, and flushed with such wit, that the sensibility of the Abbefs, recently only secluded from the world, began to be excited in favor of her guests. Prejudiced in their behalf, she directed her attention to Richelieu, and thought the favorite Preacher, might with a certain degree of prudence be fully capacitated to direct and superintend the management of a Convent, wishing him, as soon as possible to be substituted, in lieu of his uncle. Night reminded these Abbés that it was time to depart; and they took their leave, with every expression of regret; even the Abbess exclaimed, she had not known so pleasant a day since she entered the Convent, and accordingly engaged their return. They availed themselves of her permission, to make a second excursion; but dared not carry their artifice any further, apprehending that the Curate de Jouy, might disavow the honor of their alliance, and subject his pretended nephews, to unhappy, and possibly serious consequences.

CHAP. X.

*RECEPTION OF THE DUKE IN PARLIAMENT, IN HIS QUALITY
OF PEER OF FRANCE—SEQUEL OF HIS ATTACHMENTS—
IMPRUDENT EXCESS COMMITTED AT CALAIS.*

THE Duke of Richelieu, to whose name was attached a certain degree of renown, and so much in fashion at court, grew to be such a favorite that the less important acts of his life acquired in their performance, a celebrity unknown to those, of others. He was admitted in Parliament, as peer, for his Duchy of Richelieu, on the 6th of March, 1721, and this day was a day of festivity, to a number of the

people

people, as well as of rejoicing to those Ladies, partaking in the splendor of his fortune and dignities. A repetition of this occurred, when in 1723, the Parliament recognized him as Peer for his Dutchy of Fronsac.

MADAME de Flamarens, was added to the list of his friends. This Lady had a Mother in Law, who, notwithstanding a religious turn, took a singular pleasure in the Duke's company; himself, too much a man of the world, not to cultivate so favorable an impression, improved in that degree with the old Lady, as to persuade her, the character ascribed to Richelieu, of levity and unbounded dissipation, was erroneously founded. This preposition, secured his entrance at all hours, that, visits were admissible; and having appointed to partake of an early breakfast one morning with the Ladies, he profited, of the interval, between his arrival, and the old Lady's appearing.

FEIGNING then, to be incommoded, and complaining of the exhausted state of his health, the devotee alarmed, retired, and left the parties again at full liberty, until she returned, with the restorative, her kindness had been preparing. The Duke, expressing his thanks, assured her, no balsam could

ever have been administered, in a moment, so requisite.

MADAME de Villeroi, restored to her rank in society, resolved to abandon him, whom the world and her own discernment, proclaimed so unfaithful to his attachment. In this dignity of conduct, she persevered two months, omitting no occasion of manifesting her contempt, for the object, that deservedly had excited it. But here, was an end to her resolution; accustomed to meet him in society, she could not divert those eyes, that once had gazed with such transport; and was impelled to sacrifice to him, whom she thought to subdue to penitence, by her rigor.

THE Duchess of Modena, constantly occupied in the thoughts of Richelieu, spoke of him to every one at her court, with whom she could discuss so favorite a topic, with propriety, and without any danger of committing her reputation. Indeed, fame was so loud in the Duke's praises, that however personally unknown, he attracted the notice in conversation of most courts in Europe. She had just recovered from a dangerous illness, and communicating to the Prince, a vow made of a pilgrimage to Loreto, in case of her health being re-

established

established, she asked permission to perform it. The Prince acquiesces, and prepares to accompany. In vain, the Princess remonstrates against such an effort of complaisance; he is firm in his intention of joining in thanks with her, and a second messenger is dispatched to countermand the Duke's appearance, who was the favorite pilgrim, with whom alone, the vow could completely have been accomplished.

THE disappointment in this projected meeting, inclined the Dutchess to travel, and the Duke observing the change of air, had been favorable to her health, and his former apprehensions, having given way to more pleasing impressions, yielded to her desire, of visiting Paris, and her father. They embark at Ancona, remain some days at Venice, and pass from thence to Bologna, where Chavigny, the French Envoy at Genoa, was by order from his Court, awaiting the arrival of Law. He paid his respects to the Travellers, and in the conversation, the Princess imprudently communicated their intentions. Chavigny sends this intelligence express to the Regent, who dispatches a courier to the Duke of Modena, begging for particular reasons of State, he would not, at that moment, pursue his

journey

journey into France. In vain, the Prince's endeavored to persuade the Prince to disregard the regent's request. The order is given for their return to Modena, and the Princess is in despair of having performed half the voyage, without the pleasure of her hope being realized; for, the Regent conceiving some consequence, to this sudden design, of which no previous intimation had been conveyed, peremptorily ordered Richelieu, not to stir from the Court, allowing him however permission, to express, by letter, his regret to the Princess, in not having the honor of attending her commands, on her landing in France.

THE Duke, was too good a courtier, not to observe in this conduct of the Regent a remaining symptom of displeasure and envy; and anxious to efface every recollection of the past, assumed a merit, in the readiness he evinced, of obedience to the Regent's pleasure.

THE Marchioness D'Ancény, whom he met at the Duchess de Villars', attracted his attention. This Lady had ridiculed the reputation he enjoyed with her sex, boasting, that of all men she had seen, he was the least to be dreaded, and perfectly acquainted with the levity of his pursuits,

she only felt a surprize, that any woman of common understanding could possibly listen to and admit of his attachment with pleasure; the security, in which this Lady repos'd, was quickly conveyed to the Duke; attacked with a spitting of Blood, which had created a general alarm amongst his friends, he had been obliged, for a few days, to retire and nurse himself. Returned to the circle, Madame D' Ancény became the object of his constant assiduity, and Madame de Villars, with others of her friends, were not long subjected to the mortification, of her boasted triumph.

THE Duke, in the greatest intimacy with the Marquis de La Fare, could not, without envy, and a desire of participation, bear the partiality, which, the Princess of Conti, entertained in his favor. Admitted, from habits of friendship, into their society, he had been an eye witness to an unpleasant scene, that arose, in which the Princess shewed a sensibility and a command of herself, that perfectly attracted Richelieu's admiration. He espied the moment, when another mark of the Marquis' impetuous disposition, would be felt by the Princess. It soon occurred, and the Duke blaming his friend, lamented exceedingly the disagreeable

predicament of the Princess in being subjected to a man of the Marquis' violence and caprice; he desisted not here, he entreated her, for her own sake and for those of her friends, who esteemed her amiable qualities, that she would consult her peace of mind, by diverting her regard hereafter, to an object, more worthy of such an honor; his insinuation, applied with a commanding address, and in a moment in which resentment was powerfully operating in the Princess' mind, aggravated by La Fare's intervening neglect, she was easily persuaded to agree to the substitution proposed.

THE Princess, recovered from the momentary impulse she had given way to, ascribed the weakness manifested, to the effect of vanity and resentment, instead of that purity of attachment, that still predominated in favor of La Fare—an equal sincerity, actuating his mind, he had only to present himself to be forgiven. Their meeting was not delayed. They renewed protestations of fidelity, and, in mutual sensibility, buried in oblivion every recollection, of what had passed, to interrupt the harmony of their pleasing union.

BUT another cause of regret arose. Richelieu had a letter of her's, and his discretion was suspected. The Princess resolved it should be returned, without any appearance of humiliation on her part. She commanded him to attend at an appointed hour, and disclosing the motive of her summons, imparted the reconciliation that had taken place, as a natural occurrence, which his knowledge of her sex must have prepared him for; and ending with professions of future esteem, expressed the wish of having back the written proof she had given him of her regard, persuaded as she was, that he had too much generosity to withhold it.

THE Duke, usually experiencing the reverse of such a scene, was totally astonished in finding himself abandoned; and unwilling to give it credit, tried every art to bring the Princess to her former prepossession. Finding every effort vain, he took a respectful leave of the Princess, remitting with becoming affliction, the token of the intimacy that she had favored him with.

HIS Regiment, being at this time in Garrison at Calais, the usage of the service required his joining. He tore himself from the capital, to go and pass there some Months; the inhabitants of Ca-

lais, and the most distinguished families in the environs, inspired with a wish of rendering his stay pleasing, prepared to welcome him, as a nobleman of whom fame had announced the greatest hopes; and the ladies of the province, aspired to fix a party, so desirable.

THE Duke, however having no particular attraction, gave himself up to the entire attention of his regiment, treated the officers often, and on those days, plunged into every excess of intemperance. In one of these nocturnal revels, not satisfied with the propriety of concealing them from the public eye, they burst forth into the streets, and rioting through them, with all the noise, attendant on such excursions, they came to the parade, in the centre of which square, was an obelisk, transfix'd by a crucifix; the whim of dancing around it struck their fancy, and the irreligious conduct they display'd, alarmed the town and excited so general a clamor against their impiety, that the King's Attorney General thought it deserving of his notice. The parties, were on the eve of being summoned, and the witnesses, of having their depositions taken. The Duke and his companions fatigued, had retired to repose, without a thought of the serious consequen-

ces, to which their imprudence had subjected them; and little aware, of the person, in whose power their fate pended, being of an unrelenting rapacious disposition, capable of the most vindictive measures. In fact, the atrocity of their behaviour, had been much more flagrant, than the instance which, in our days condemned, at Abbeville, the Chevalier de la Barre, to the forfeiture of his head. What an eternal reproach to those Judges who passed sentences and infamy to that clergy, who urged this young Man's punishment!

HAPPILY, a Gentleman, in the place, of liberal ideas, obtained early information of what was going forward. Impelled by that generosity of mind, such sentiments create, he hastened to the Attorney General, to suppress the intention of such proceedings; observing it would be a wicked act, to attribute, to irreligion, and irreverence for the Deity, what ought alone to be deemed inconsiderateness, resulting from the fumes of wine, and madness of intoxication. That, on the contrary, instead of instituting any enquiry, it was proper and becoming to cause the report to cease; and to persuade those who had taken offence, that the matter had been greatly mistated, and that the presence of a crucifix, admitting it had

been

been known, did not interdict the common mirth of dissipation.

THE Attorney General, whose views, were not likely to be gratified, by a suspense of the exertion he meditated, continued in his resolution of making it public. Monsieur de la Place, the name of the gentleman, who interfered, indignant, that his arguments were not allowed to prevail, repaired to an uncle of his, to whose purse he knew the Attorney General was indebted, for his success in obtaining the public function he exercised. This money had not been repaid, and the uncle in coinciding, with the nephew, in their judgment of the transaction, the former determined personally to intimidate, in case this obstinacy was not subdued. It was the only mode that remained to be adopted with a man actuated by such narrow views; and being enforced with spirit, the enquiry was suppressed, and every preliminary consigned to the flames.

SOMETIMES had elapsed, before the Duke was informed of this generous and voluntary interposition. He testified immediately every acknowledgement, to that worthy man; and extending his gratitude to his son, a man eminent in literature, became his protector through life, and never omitted an occasion, where he could do him service. He be-

flowed

stowed on him every commendation and patronage to ensure the success of his *Venice Preserved*; and two years after, presenting the public with another tragedy, entitled *Adèleade de Ponthieu*, it was unanimously received by the regulators of the stage. The actors in expectation of a new theatrical piece of Voltaire's, their favorite author, hesitated to play the former. Richelieu, apprized of the delay, hastens to remedy the evil apprehended; and taking with him Monsieur de la Place, addresses the comedians and directors in his behalf. They plead, their intentions were conformable to the wishes of Messrs. de Villars, D'Argental, &c. no one, he replies, can pay greater respect and deference to such opinion, than himself; nor hold the author's merit in greater consideration, joined to a personal esteem and friendship; yet, such partiality, will not admit of his productions bearing the exclusive privilege of being represented, "I therefore must require the preference to be given where it is due. Monsieur de la Place's tragedy is in your hands, and accordingly the first, that the public in your acting, are to be favored with."

THE Duke's charge of first gentleman of the bed chamber, authorized his interference. Its representation was immediate, and met, in its general applause, the success merited. The Duke, was pre-

fent,

gent, and was complimented by the author, in an handsome allusion, to his ancestor, the Cardinal, the great patron of arts and sciences, having rendered inherent in his posterity, a similar taste, with the care of perpetuating them.

CHAP. XI.

*RETURN OF THE DUKE DE RICHELIEU TO PARIS.—DEATH OF
CARDINAL DUBOIS, AND SUBSEQUENTLY THAT OF THE
REGENT.*

THE Duke of Richelieu was as much pleased in his service not being prolonged at Calais, as impatience had been testified for his return to Paris. Mademoiselle de Charolois, who, yielding to the prevailing manners of her father's court, had experienced other attachments, in the Duke's absence, sighed for his return, in the consideration, of his being the most valuable. Her mind rejecting all self control, disdained the idea of imposing any

U. restraint

restraint on him, she preferred. In this coincidence of sentiment they happily met, and every renewed interview was a scene of additional pleasure. The absence of Madame de Villeroi, gone to the Baths of Bourbon, decreased the number of objects to whom his attention was devoted.

THE Marchioness of Duras, about this time feeling approaching symptoms of the consequence of her former attachment, made advances to create a reunion with the Marquis, who neglecting her, had addicted himself to convivial riot and intemperance. Her family, assisting her wishes, he was easily persuaded, not to relinquish entirely, such a possession. An heir was born, and its premature appearance ascribed, to the unusual tenderness, the Marchioness had manifested: his friends were eager in their compliments; he received them with self satisfaction, and no suspicion existed, until the young Marquis growing to a mature age, left, from resemblance, no doubt in his mind, of the original.

THIS person was the last Duke de Duras, who died in 1789. Indeed in figure and appearance, every thing bespoke the truth of the above anecdote, but if a doubt had remained, the Marchioness

would

would have dispelled it, by a candor in acknowledging, there was no wonder in the likeness.

RICHELIEU, intent upon the advancement of this young nobleman, procured him the title of Duke; and soliciting the King for his admission as first gentleman of the bed chamber, Lewis the fifteenth rejected at first the proposal, from some displeasure he had excited. Recollecting however the natural interest of his favourite, in the success of this request, he assented, in terms that evinced the reason of the grant; “I will, says the king in his letter, admit of your solicitation in behalf of the young Duras, in whose welfare, you feel so strong an inclination. His conduct hitherto has made no favorable impression, caution him, hereafter to be more circumspect, for if he amends not, I promise, that I shall dismiss him with disgrace;” arrived to the age of exercising this trust, the young Duke, counteracted, in every manner possible, the wishes of Richelieu, which drew from him the bitter remark, towards the end of his life, when combining a similar spirit of opposition, in the Duke of Fronsac, that he had never been thwarted, but by those, whose ties ought to have secured him against such vexation.

IN this year the marriage of Lewis the fifteenth was concluded with the Infanta of Spain, and an article of the negotiation, stipulating, that the Princess should come into France, to await the moment of its celebration; she landed in the kingdom on the 2d of March, 1722. The Prince, educated in the severe practice of virtue, by the pious and austere Fleury, revolted, when the intimation was given him; and so much did his disposition then vary, from the tendency so evident in his future years, that the only relief to the sorrow he betrayed, was in an assurance that the necessary consummation, would be for sometime deferred. He journeyed as far as Bourg la Reine, to meet the Princess, whom he embraced, but spoke not to. Returned to Paris, to receive her in the Louvre, he went through the same ceremony, observing a profound silence. The Princess, whose age the King's rather exceeded, expressed an admiration of his person, shrewdly remarking, it was a pity, he had not the gift of speech more than a puppet exhibited. It was this same Princess, who to the scandal of the existing Government, three years after, was returned to Spain; and solemnized her marriage with the son and heir apparent of the reigning Monarch of Portugal.

MADÉMOISELLE de Charolois, averse to the local constancy of their frequent interviews, expres-

sed

fed an inclination, to visit the Duke at his Villa, of which same had been busy in describing its elegance and conveniency. Two of her women, admitted to an unreserved confidence, announced in a lively epistolary style, this pleasing intention. The Duke, sensible of the favor, prepared to do the honors of his retirement; and the justness of the taste displayed, met from the Princess every commendation.

IN the evening of the same day, his engagements were to lead him to the house of a lady, for whom the Cardinal Dubois had shewn a marked preference; but notwithstanding the credit, his attentions gained, from his station of first minister, the Duke was the clandestine favorite, and the Cardinal was ignorant, to what happy rival, he was sacrificed.

IN the intervening time he attended the academy, to be present at the reception of that minister, as a member. He there witnessed the dishonor of Fontenelle, in pronouncing the eulogium of so debased a character, and shocked at the prostitution of such eloquence, he reflected with grief, that genius was compelled to pay her tribute, to men from their exalted situations, without a reference to their individual worth.

QUITTING the Academy, he repaired to the Lady's house, whose invitation, he had accepted. The Lady prepared to receive him, wishes their interview to be without interruption; The door is interdicted—Dubois arrives, the servants are obstinate in their denial; actuated by suspicion, himself alone persists, he adds, that having matters of importance to communicate, he must be admitted; and his quality and rank, with the custom of visiting at their Mistress' house, effect his entrance.

PRESENTING himself in the room, he gives way to the violence and impetuosity of his temper, declares his conviction of the cause that refused his admission; and without any ceremony or constraint, showers a torrent of abuse on the Duke and the Lady; calls to her memory the promise given of seeing him on the day of his academical introduction, in order to be early in her congratulation; and such a compliment, he observes, he had expected to have been paid to him, without the presence of a third person, and particularly, that of a man, whom, on all such occasions, he dreads and abhors.

RICHELIEU, endeavored in vain to appease; his mildness only caused more presumption, dis-

gusted

gusted with such vulgar and low abuse, he took the same tone, and the quarrel assuming a serious appearance; the Lady, fearful of consequences, from the resentment of the prime Minister, pledged herself, to treat him, more favorably — the Duke considering likewise, that an adventure of this nature, and a quarrel with a man of Dubois' Cloth, would attach a ridicule on him, tried again to pacify. He even offered to relinquish the field; but the other not sufficiently calm, angrily replied, he did not wish to be indebted to his services or forbearance, for procuring him, that relaxation, which he sought; but only requested, he would not monopolise the attention of all the pretty women, and that he might not be troubled, with meeting him in those houses, where he paid his devotions. “ My dear brother, (says the “ Duke smiling)—Favor me with your list, and I “ engage hereafter to pay it respect.”

DUBOIS, pleased with the witticism, felt his resentment abated, and in good humour joked the Duke on the recent transaction, that had occurred. The Duke took this opportunity of expressing his admiration, of the excellence of the speech, pronounced by the Cardinal, at the Academy.—“ Poh, (re-“ joined the Prelate,) my Speech, as you are pleased

" to term it, was no more of my composition, than
 " that, ascribed to be your's on the same occasion.
 " I have other matters that occupy my time, of
 " much more importance, than dedicating any
 " part of it to the study of such harangues." He
 then retired, and retiring pleasantly turned to the
 Duke, and said " my dear brother, since brother
 " you must be, hold in recollection, I pray, that I
 " love you much better, at the Academy, than
 " here."

THE Duke experienced other incidents with the Cardinal equally diverting, and probably, it was happy for him, that the excess to which this prelate abandoned himself, accelerated soon after his death. Of the particulars of his life, it would be disgraceful to enter into a detail. He neither believed in God, respected any moral tie as binding, or in this world considered any thing as sacred; allowing of no obstacle in the attainment of his views, he plunged the kingdom into a war with Spain, and scattered the public money, in securing himself the Cardinal's hat, which dignity had never been bestowed so unworthily. Devoted, from a corrupt system in his ministerial capacity, to obey implicitly the policy dictated by England, he preferred an alliance with that Country, to the

natural connection with Spain. The Regent, a slave to his will, unmindful of any ostensible motive, forgot in this compliance, the vast sums expended, in placing this very Prince, Uncle to the King, on the Throne of the Spanish Monarchy.

A MISER in character, and only generous through ostentation, he exhausted the royal treasure, leaving of his own in ready money, a fortune of near half a million sterling, besides the arrears due for one year of his income, amounting to another million. His household and establishment was splendid, and on the most expanded scale, he was served off, of Gold, and whilst abounding in magnificence, he scarcely indulged his wife in a decent maintenance. The world were not ignorant of his marriage, which he took the most abominable means to suppress, when his ambition aspired to the prelacy. He prevailed with the intendant or civil administrator of the province, to use his endeavours to have the record destroyed. Eager to fulfil a commission so delegated, the Curate was discovered who performed the Ceremony, the keys were stolen from him, and that leaf recording the marriage torn out of the parish register. His admission in the council was regarded with the utmost displeasure, by men of probity ; and operated as a signal of retirement,

to those of the nobility, who disdained such a colleague; as Archbishop, as Cardinal, and as Prime Minister, many solemnizations were held, but none hazarded an elegy to his memory. He had been, whilst living, feared and contemned.

He died on the 10th of August, 1723, a martyr to the dissolute life he had led. It was necessary to amputate him, and upon a man of sixty-six years, the operation was likely to be fatal. His advanced age, debility of constitution, with the heat of the season, combined in a speedy appearance of mortification. In this terrible state, but fully sensible, the administration of the holy Viaticum was proposed, which he rejected with horrid imprecations. The Priest alarmed, conjured those surrounding him, to exert their influence with the dying man. In vain they urged him to commune, and the Regent was obliged to be sent for, to whose persuasion this abandoned wretch yielded, and received the Sacrament, before he expired.

If his life had not been so singular an instance, of the utmost profligacy, at which man can arrive, his dying moments would have been conspicuous;

when

when after hearing the exhortations of some pious sons of the Church, attending him, to no effect, although on an act so essential to his salvation, he acceded to the earnest injunction of a man, whom he had religiously tutored in similar infidelity and contempt of all moral virtue.

THE Regent after his death, became more sedate, and correct in his private conduct, he undertook the management of affairs and directed them with capacity. As a man he was adored, and in his public station, his manners and deportment were so captivating, that they acted as a palliative to his measures; or rather to those of the Cardinal's, which he sanctioned. The latter harsh, arrogant, and violent, presented a contrast to the mildness, affability, and complacence of the Regent. The Parisians were not insensible of the difference; and regretted that a Prince, born with so good a disposition, had manifested so perverted an habit. They justly imputed it to the real cause—the natural result of such a tutorage.

UNFORTUNATELY for the people, whose grievances he had promised to attenuate, he survived his favorite only four months. In that short period, he evinced that he was seriously disposed to labour for the public good.

ON the 2d of November, this Prince resigned his breath.—an apoplectic fit, as he was sitting in his closet, in company alone with the Dutchess of Phalaris, attacked him. This Lady was his avowed Mistress, and he expired in her arms, without uttering a word.

To amplify and depict to the world the whole of his character, it may be remarked, that he was endowed with the best nature, and no tendency whatever to vindictive measures, or severity. The escape of the Duke of Maine from punishment, is an instance in point; for he shewed no desire to convict, however easy, it would have been for him to instigate proofs, or presumptive evidence, of the Duke's having actually engaged, in the conspiracy against him. He suffered the law to take its free course, and left the parliament at full liberty to judge and decide; retaining no memory, as other Princes might, of the concerted union between Monsieur Du Maine, Madame de Maintenon, and Le Père Tellier, to assume the regency, to his prejudice, as devolving to him by birth-right, from his quality of first Prince of the blood.

IN the early part of his regency, he was much beloved; and that sudden attachment acquired him

from

from the people, the title of Philip le Debonnaire, or the meek, gentle. His attention to the health and education, of the infant Prince, left in his power, is a manifest contradiction to the baseness of those reports fabricated in the former reign, tending to insinuate, that excited by ambition, he had, in order to pave his way to the throne, by secret machinations, caused the death of the Duke and Duchess of Burgundy, and of their son the Duke of Britanny.

HE was a Patron of the arts and sciences, and bestowed the greatest encouragement in promoting them; and notwithstanding the material defects of his administration, occasioned by indolence of habit, excess of dissipation, and that facility of adopting pernicious councils, without permitting his judgment to weigh them, a very great panegyric may be conferred, although the effect must have been trifling in comparison with the evils created. In those loose and unguarded moments, when social conviviality reigned, or when immersed in greater excesses, neither his mistresses or friends ever had the art of extracting from him, any resolution of Government, or measure in contemplation.

THE most unpardonable act in his conduct, and which never can be effaced in the remembrance of

true Frenchmen, is the unlimited confidence he reposed in Dubois. A partiality might have been excused in favor of the man who had educated him. This should have been confined within its proper extent, but to entrust the reins of Government to such a person, whose character he was not blind to, renders the motive less excusable. To promote afterwards that very being, to the station of Prime Minister, whom on his first advancement into the council of state, he had cautioned to observe more rectitude and probity in his conduct, and elevating him to the rank of Archbishop and Cardinal, was an insult to his subjects, and a total irreverence to religion. He could not harbor a doubt, that he, who sacrificed every tie to the bent of his passions, and regarded virtue as chimerical, would be swayed, in governing, by any principle whatsoever—No justification can prevail.

CHAP. XII.

MONSIEUR LE DUC BECOMES PRIME MINISTER.—RICHELIEU PAYS GREAT ATTENTION TO MADAME DE PRIE, MISTRESS TO THIS PRINCE,—HE COMMUNICATES TO HER A MEMORIAL, RELATIVE TO A PROPOSAL FOR THE MARRIAGE OF LEWIS XV. WITH THE DAUGHTER OF THE KING OF POLAND, IN PREFERENCE AND PREJUDICE TO THE INFANTA OF SPAIN.

THE Duke de Bourbon, called by way of distinction, Monsieur Le Duc, hastened, on the news of the Regent's death, to solicit from the young Monarch, his approbation of the station of Prime Minister, or director of the affairs of

Government.

Government. The King, yet a minor, assenting to his request, the people flattered themselves, they would, from the change, derive some benefit, and applauded the selection. Lewis the 15th's preceptor, then Bishop de Frejus, and since better known as the **Cardinal de Fleury**, secretly aspired to this dignity; but not considering that moment as favorable to avow his pretensions, he supported by his voice with the Monarch, those of Monsieur De Bourbon.

THE disgrace and mismanagement of the executive power in the Regent's Government, was not more conspicuous, than that which soon appeared in the succeeding administration.— The Marchioness de Prie, wife to the French Ambassador at Turin, was the declared favorite of Monsieur Le Duc, and ruled him as completely as her caprice dictated, that France was subjected to her entire will; and if possible, the situation of the kingdom was more to be lamented, from a difference in the actual talents of the present to the former administrator. In a very short time, the animosity between the Houses of D'Orleans and Condé broke out afresh, every creature of the former house was displaced, and to crown

the strong measures adopted, it was resolved to send back the Infanta of Spain, under pretext that she was too young to espouse the King.

RICHELIEU, devoted to the gaiety of the times, had never attached a serious motive to any of his pursuits. Thinking the moment favorable, as an expert courtier, he dedicated his attention solely to the reigning favorite. He was attended to with pleasure, initiated into the Cabinet, and one of the first to whom the project was disclosed, of allying Lewis XV. to the daughter of the King of Poland.

PERFECTLY acquainted with the volatile character of this Lady, he experienced with her the reverse of what he had met with in other attachments. Too grateful for the indulgencies on those occasions shewn him, he ventured on no reproach, and was perfectly content with the inviolable profession, of remaining her confidant and friend; accordingly, the Marchioness consulted him on every plan, and if his advice could have guided this imperious woman, the measures adopted, and pursued with obstinacy, might not have been so detrimental.

MADAME de Prie imparted to him the necessity of a Queen of France, being indebted for her elevation, entirely to the counsels of herself and the Duke de Bourbon. Without this, their power might possibly not extend beyond the King's coming of age. It was so indispensable, that several alliances had been proposed for the Monarch. Among these, were the sister of this Prince; Mademoiselle de Vermendois; but Madame de Prie having incognito, paid this Prince a visit at the Convent of Tours, heard a character of herself expressed with such sovereign contempt, that she immediately dropped all intention, of exalting this Prince.

THE Duke of Richelieu, politically engaged, gave much of his time to the labors of the Cabinet. This inclination was much seconded by Madame de Gontaut, a Lady, in the pleasure of whose company he relaxed from the fatigue of study; and could the Duke have been susceptible of a serious attachment, she was certainly in every respect deserving of it. Dividing his leisure moments between her house and Madame de Matignon's, he felt at this juncture of his life, an enjoyment he had before been a stranger to; and the former, by flattering his vanity with delicacy, in a prediction, that he would soon be required to fill an important

post in administration, completed his reform, and actuated his perseverance in qualifying himself for that event.

A MEMORIAL, had been presented to Madame de Gontaut, framed, to divert the attention of government, in favor of any other object than the Princess intended. Richelieu, admiring its composition, assumed to himself the merit, and knowing, no absolute determination had taken place, wished that his recommendation, might be approved. Here follows an extract of the writer's sentiments.

" AN astonishment prevails, that in the several
 " proposals of alliance deliberated upon for the
 " Monarch, that of the daughter to the Count of
 " Leczinsky, can have admitted of any considera-
 " tion."

" ABSTRACTED from the enormous disproportion
 " that appears in every point of view, either as
 " to rank, high birth (being issued only from the
 " common class of nobility in Poland), age, per-
 " sonal accomplishments; a variety of reasons, im-
 " portant to the interests of the kingdom, in her
 " present situation, or relative to her future state,
 " uniting with the respect due to the memory of
 " the late King, in the renown he acquired to

“ France, seem of themselves, sufficient motives to
 “ set aside a project, that would operate so contra-
 “ ry in principle. Indeed nothing but the effect
 “ of destiny, could cause such an alliance to be con-
 “ sidered as suitable for so great a Prince ; the same
 “ alliance being declined by the Monarch’s Cham-
 “ berlain ; broken off, as soon as intimated, by the
 “ Prince de Bade, brother of Madame D’Orleans ;
 “ and actually rejected by a Gentleman only of
 “ France.”

“ But however forcible, these reasons may
 “ be, there is one of greater weight, which merits
 “ particular reflection.”

“ Is it not certain that in forming this alliance,
 “ the nation will saddle themselves with a burthen
 “ difficult to be supported ? Discontent will be
 “ engendered, in what may be requisite to be done ;
 “ and those, whose interests are served, possibly
 “ may prove not susceptible of gratitude.”

“ For whatever conditions are prescribed, at
 “ present, relative to the situation of the parties,
 “ and which must meet perfect acquiescence and
 “ obedience, it would be chimerical to suppose, that
 “ France hereafter will not be embarrassed, in
 “ rejecting her voice to pretensions which the nation

“ will

" will probably neither be able or willing to involve herself for the purpose of carrying into effect. It is then evident that in either manner obstacles arise."

" If the King should eventually be dissatisfied with the choice, what a scandalous reproach would it be to those who fixed it? But if it proves the reverse, it is possible, that from superiority of age, such an ascendancy may be gained on the young Prince's mind as to be converted into views for her relations, militating against those of her benefactors: moreover, it behoves the dignity of France, to justify, or palliate in some degree, to Spain, and even to Europe, the strong measure adopted, by repudiating the Infanta; and not to cause greater offence, by a selection so very lowered in its contrast."

" To obviate therefore, so invidious a preference, two Princesses descended from illustrious houses, and eminent in personal and mental accomplishments, are proposed. These are

" THE Princess Christiana Wilhelmina, daughter of the reigning Duke de Saxe Lizen-nalt, and of a Prince de Wissenfels, born the 3d of September, 1711."

" AND

" AND the Princess Louisa Dorothea, daughter
 " of the reigning Duke de Saxe Meunungen,
 " and of a Princess de Brandenburg, the issue of
 " Frederick William, the Elector, and born in
 " 1710."

" IN the election of either of these Princesses,
 " no embarrassment can occur, as they are equally
 " highly worthy of the distinction, that will be
 " conferred. The writer of this memorial, who
 " has the honor to suggest his sentiments on the
 " occasion, inclines however rather to the latter
 " of these Princesses ; and this only, in regard, of
 " the difference of years, being in her favor."

" THE only objection that can be devized
 " is on the side of religion. But the weight of this
 " sinks in a comparison, of how much more seri-
 " ous consequence it would have been, had any
 " thoughts of alliance been directed, towards a
 " Prince of Prussia, Denmark, or England, all
 " followers of the pretended reformed faith.
 " The head branches of this house are Catholics,
 " and as their conversion has been sincere, the
 " propriety and happiness derived from its en-
 " joyment, has been liberally confessed. To op-
 " pose however, any remonstrances on this head,

" the

" the Minister of Poland, at the Court of the holy
 " See, must impart to his Holiness, and obtain his
 " concurrence, for the proposition being made
 " here, in the direct name of the Pope.—This
 " must effectually silence all opposers, and the
 " only pretext offering."

" In the apprehension which his sacred emi-
 " nence will entertain, of the choice devolving on
 " another protestant Princess, there is no doubt of
 " the preference to a Princess of the house of Sax-
 " ony, from the greater hope arising of her con-
 " version. France, likewise will derive an open-
 " ing for a reconciliation with Spain. The cre-
 " dit of Poland at Rome, will be employed to ef-
 " fect the Pope's interposition with the Spanish
 " Monarchy ; and such a mediation can only ope-
 " rate with the success wished, since that of Eng-
 " land has failed."

" If this overture is deemed acceptable, the
 " means and mode of pursuing it to tend to a hap-
 " py termination, will be detailed at greater length ;
 " but if against all expectations, the resolution is
 " so fixed, and that measures are already concer-
 " ted to carry it into execution, arguments to

" counteract

" counteract it must cease, and give place to expedients, that may be attempted to soften its rigor, and mitigate the resentment of Spain."

MADAME de Gontaut, saw with pleasure the earnest endeavors of the Duke de Richelieu, to effect the purpose they wished. However flattering, the prospect of success, the Princess of Saxe was not preferred. Paris Duvernai, a man whose sway preponderated with Monsieur Le Duc, and Madame de Prie, confirmed them in the first election; and the daughter of a dethroned King, more aged than Lewis XV. destitute of either fortune, or possession, bringing with her only chimerical and embarrassing claims, was destined, to be vested with so high an honor.

THOSE nations, inimical to France, received with satisfaction the accounts of this determination, which they foresaw must sooner or later involve her in a war with the Spanish Monarchy. They concluded that Philip V. Uncle to the King, and Grandson to Lewis XIV. with whom a connection of this nature, so clearly for the advantage of both Monarchies, ought to have been preferable, admitting even that it had not been previously resolved on, would resent the insult

sult of the Infanta of Spain being repudiated; and this from no other cause, than to satisfy the caprice of a Mistress, to the person entrusted with the administration of the kingdom.

WHAT an example of Ministers, vested with sole and unlimited power, sacrificing every thing to its continuation, in the view of gratifying their interest and ambition! Kings are necessarily obliged to delegate a certain portion of their power; and in this confidence, which becometh precarious, in regard to its being well or ill placed, depends the good or pernicious Government of a kingdom. The power of one man, if it was possible to secure it from error, would certainly, in its tendency, be more active and efficient, both in the discernment of merit and the quick punishment of crimes. Unfortunately, instances of this kind never occurring, the supposition becomes imaginary; Monarchs from their education, seldom are capable of governing, and by their habits are estranged, from the attention and labor requisite. Thence results the reins devolving to some favorite, on whom partiality alone and not capacity directing the choice, it too often follows,

that rapacity, tyranny and insolence, assume, in their name, an unbounded sway.

IT is from such conviction that this destructive Hydra has at length been annihilated ; and the wisdom establishing the decree of the responsibility of Ministers, cannot be too greatly applauded.

THE ceremony of the King's marriage was performed with every becoming dignity ; and the young Queen appeared amazed with the splendor attending her. Mild, innocent, and unassuming, she took her seat on the Throne, doubting the reality of her good fortune.

IN the process of time, so confined is the gift of human foresight, that this very alliance, considered and condemned then, as the fruits of an intriguing and designing woman, proved of solid benefit to the kingdom's acquisitions. The Dutchies of Lorraine and Bar, then held by the Queen's Father, only in *usufruct*, became, upon his death, annexed to the French Monarchy.

CHAP. XIII.

*THE DUKE OF RICHELIEU IS NAMED AMBASSADOR EXTRA-
ORDINARY TO VIENNA,—HIS DEPUTATION APPEARING
TO THAT COURT MORE AS THE DESIGN OF ESPYING ITS
ACTIONS, THAN FROM ANY NECESSITY FOR SUCH A COM-
MISSION,—HIS RECEPTION IS DEFERRED, AND HIMSELF
SUBJECTED TO GREAT MORTIFICATION,—QUARREL
WITH THE DUC DE RIPERDA, AMBASSADOR FROM SPAIN.*

THE Regent's Court had been such a cause for scandal in the world, that a difficulty occurred in the selection of women of unblemished reputation for the Queen's household. Too general had the fashion prevailed of affixing some favorite to every

lady, that this determination was obliged to be abandoned, and those ladies deemed to have been the objects of calumny, were nominated.—In most of those chosen, the Duke found an assurance of support in his political views.

RICHELIEU's obsequiousness to Madame de Prie, did not however impede his attention to the Bishop. His penetration soon acquainted him with the ascendancy which that Prelate had gained on the mind of the young King, whence he was fully persuaded that the commencement of his career as Prime Minister, would occur as soon as the opportunity offered, from the King's non-age expiring. This Prelate, under an exterior the most unassuming, concealed the most inordinate ambition; but shrewd, endowed with capacity, and satisfied that what he aspired to, was within his attainment, he was content to ascend the ladder of his hope, by the means of a gentle and gradual progress.

INDIGNANT, that the reins of Government should have fallen into such hands as Madame de Prie's, whom he perceived, equally with the nation, solely governed Monsieur le Duc, he magnified to his pupil every error committed. Having had the virtue to resist almost singly, the intention in the

council,

council, regarding the Infanta, he justly concluded, the courtiers, and the reigning power, would effect their utmost to prejudice him with the young Queen, as having had no hand in, but on the contrary having opposed, her advancement, he thought therefore, the moment was not to be neglected, of availing himself, of the dominion he had established, in the Monarch's mind; and accordingly, embraced this opportunity of displaying to him, the pernicious consequences, of allowing any woman, to participate in the affairs of Government. His pupil saw with the eyes of his Governor, and though delighted in the possession of the young Queen, whose beauty and accomplishments, he, without reserve, to those courtiers bringing comparisons to his observation, declared his opinion, of their transcendence, yet, from this notion early inculcated, he never suffered the Queen, to influence or interfere, in any respect, in his councils.

THE Abbé de Livry, Minister of France, in Portugal, had the unpleasant task of announcing to the King and Queen of Spain, the resolution, of the French Council, respecting their daughter. He was immediately ordered to depart; and the People sympathizing, in the just resentment of their mo-

narch,

narch, insulted on every occasion those Frenchmen they met. The Queen, in particular feeling the Austrian dignity contemned, shewed an excess of rage; and allowed not the King any respite to his grief, till she had excited him to dispatch orders to the Duke de Riperdá, his minister at Vienna, to conclude with the Emperor, a treaty of alliance offensive and defensive.

IT was particularly incumbent, at this crisis, for the King's or rather the Nation's interests, that his Majesty should have at Vienna a vigilant minister; and the Duke de Richelieu, in the enjoyment of court favor, had credit enough to have it resolved, that his capacity was adequate to the magnitude of so important a trust. He took sometime in the necessary preparation, determined, that his embassy should carry the splendor of the representation of a great monarch, towards the first Prince on the Throne in Europe. The interval, preceding his departure, was accordingly passed, in giving the orders requisite for the sumptuous reception, he meditated; and in adieu to those Ladies of the Court and his friends, who had honored him with their regard.

His pride felt a pleasure, in the dignity he was appointed to; and conscious how requisite his first outset in this diplomatic employ should be signalized, he confided, in the force of his genius and natural ability to conduce to the end, and to supply what talents uncultivated and inexperience, might occasion the defect of. Accordingly, in the result, will be evinced, the force of the former predominating, and this in so conspicuous a manner, as to cause a natural conclusion, that, had the latter been attended to, his political career would have been brilliant, and possibly vied, with the most eminent Ministers, who had ruled the kingdom. In an equal degree, will be seen his abilities, as a General prevail, though in this art, he had derived the benefit, of early observation and instruction, under renowned masters.

ARRIVED at Vienna, he displayed the riches and elegance, he commanded. A magnificent habitation, numerous in attendants, superbly furnished, a select suite of gentlemen in the Ambassador's retinue, all announced, the ostentation and parade of the deputy of a great Prince.

NOTWITHSTANDING the air and grandeur in this equipage, it did not impose, to attract that re-

pect

pect he might have expected. On the contrary, his presence was thought obnoxious: He was derided, as too young for an Ambassador. (He then was only 29 years of age.) He imparted these rebuffs to the Bishop de Frejus, who recommended the exercise of his patience, and above all, that of his discretion. Charles VI. proud and imperious, was subjected to the most scrupulous etiquette; devout and rigorous in an observance of the ceremonies of his religion, he compelled every attendant at his Court to undergo the same martyrdom. Richelieu, tired to death in the length of these daily avocations, complained most bitterly of them to his friend the Dutches of ***, with whom, during his absence, he maintained a regular literary intercourse, as well, as with the Marquis de Silly, who put him *aupair*, of every thing transacting at Court.

THE public Ministers of the Emperor, jealous of each other, and still more of Prince Eugene, were united however, in disinclination, to the Duke's public character. They did not like a Minister of that stamp, at the Court they were employed. The superiority of the Prince's influence, arose from the project of the Spanish Treaty,

which

which the Emperor, contemplating as his own work, was charmed with the prospect of so many inter-marriages between the Arch-Duchesses of Austria, and the Infantas of Spain.

It behoved the Ambassador of France, playing so secondary a part, at this juncture, to conduct himself with the greatest firmness, and the most consummate address. The Court had designed to put the Duke de Riperda, in the exclusive possession of the Catholic Chapel, assigned to the Ambassadors; pretending, that when once it was in the occupation of one of them, it could not be ceded to the other, without affronting him, to whose service it had been destined. In every circumstance, they sought, to humiliate Richelieu, who received at this juncture an order from his Court to defer his public entry. The Duke spiritedly replies, that he must make, and in every respect, support equal pretensions, and insist upon being placed on a similar footing with the Duke de Riperda; who, he intimates, is soon to depart for Spain, to occupy the station of Prime Minister. In his letter to Monsieur de Morville, secretary for foreign affairs, he enlarged on the propriety, of assuming the greatest consequence, and to speak in a tone of language,

that will do away effectually, an idea entertained of the weakness and timidity prevailing in the French government. He answers for the success of such a plan, and predicts, it will tend to an eventual acquiescence, in the court of Vienna becoming mediator with Spain. For he adds, in support of this assertion, that his judgement is formed in regard to the Emperor. An aversion for war, and a predilection only for Spain, in the natural wish of raising a splendid establishment for his Daughters, and thence, the Duke's persuasion arises, that an apprehension of being thwarted in his favorite scheme, by his time being occupied and devoted to other operations; joined to a becoming respect for the power, with whom such a contest may ensue, will cause the preference to be given to every point, wherein, the tranquillity of carrying into effect the former preponderance will be secured.

ONCE his principle of action established, the Duke gives to it every individual support; and conceiving, his powers of Plenipo, to admit of the greatest latitude to his judgement, he boldly persists, in a resolution, to maintain the line, he has traced for his conduct, and recommended to his Court, the confirmation of.

So far, from the Ambassador's reasons prevailing with the Secretary, Monsieur de Morville, in answer, absolutely rejects the idea, of any probability, existing in a hope, of France effecting a mediation with Spain, through the Emperor's interposition. He declares its impossibility, viewing the relative state of the Emperor with that kingdom; and hesitates not to pronounce, that if an intention of the kind has come to light, to warrant or occasion such a supposition, it could only originate in direct fallacy, from an expectation thereby of exciting suspicions and divisions, in the good understanding between the Courts of England and France; by whose endeavors alone the success of so desirable a measure can be insured. Monsieur de Morville thence concludes the necessity of temporizing.

THE Duke, nevertheless, adheres systematically to the rule laid down; and in his next dispatches, has the satisfaction to announce the Emperor's permission for his public entry, with every assurance on the part of the Emperor, expressed by his Ministers, how sincerely, it is his wish to maintain a pacific footing with France. Riperda, secure in every attention, and of having communicated what-

ever might transpire, thought, he might assume a superiority in personal conduct towards a young man, whom he affected to disregard, as incapable of discharging the employ he was vested with. He had, in consequence, arrogated to himself the precedence, and in the same vein of presumption, concluded to maintain it with impunity. Richelieu, in whose sentiments, he was set down as an empty, vain coxcomb, determined within himself, soon to abate his insolence. In this intent, he was careful of avoiding any public difference, that might involve a discussion between the two Courts; but deemed himself at full liberty to repress the continuation of such conduct, by a private resentment between Ambassador and Ambassador. An opportunity soon occurred: on a Levee day, they arrived in a manner together, but Riperda descending the first from his Carriage, attempts in a hurry to get before him in entering the room where the Emperor was. Richelieu, penetrated into the motive, and more alert than the Spaniard, out-strips him, on the stair case, and pushing by him, apparently in an accidental manner, elbows him with such force, that the Duke retrogrades and falls, which gives the other the advantage of presenting himself agreeable to his rank.—But this, the Duke conf-

ders,

ders, as not the only point to gain. He wishes this affair to have more éclat, and for this purpose repairs in the evening to the hôtel of Riperda. The Duke is denied. The next morning, a servant is deputed; with enquiries after his Excellency's health; no answer is returned; when they meet, Richelieu expresses his astonishment, that he had not been honored with a message, since he had sent and presented himself at his door, to obey his commands.—Riperda, articulates some words confusedly, and quits the Duke, who denotes, by a shrug of his shoulders, his contempt, for such a termination. The thoughts however of contending for future precedence are relinquished, and shortly after the Spaniard is recalled.

RICHELIEU, devized every means to improve his intimacy with the Prince Eugene, who testified on every occasion a friendly regard and attention. But these marks of kindness, being confined to trifles, and carrying in them nothing communicative, the Duke sought how to effect the latter. With this view, he obtains an introduction to the Countess Badiani's, the acknowledged favourite of the Prince, and by an unremitting perseverance, succeeding in the end in procuring for himself an agreeable and

confidential reception, became the depository of the Prince's secrets, which the latter's respect for his Mistress' judgment, caused him to impart.

It was through this channel our expert and insinuating ambassador, gained intimation, of what had been resolved respecting him. He was informed, the Emperor hesitated, although, the permission for the entry had been given, to fix for it a particular day; and likewise that the Duke of Riperda, who had publicly noticed his recall, was pressed and inclined to remain. The Duke, hereupon, fearful of being committed, by a disappointment, in the tenor of the assurances, he had conveyed to his Court, importunes, that the permission may be complete. He receives for answer from the Prince Eugene, and Monsieur de Zinzendorff, that the Emperor, unaccustomed to have any topic urged, or pressed, on him by the Ambassador of any sovereign, will consult his convenience in the determination.

CHAP. XIV.

RICHELIEU'S PUBLIC ENTRY,—ADVENTURE OF THE SLEDGES, IN COMPANY WITH THE PRINCESS DE LICHTENSTEIN,—CONSEQUENCE THEREOF,—HE CO-OPERATES ESSENTIALLY, IN OBTAINING FOR THE BISHOP A CARDINAL'S HAT,—HIS ADMISSION INTO THE ORDER OF THE HOLY GHOST, 'ERE HE IS OF AGE,—HIS NEGOCIATION TERMINATED, AND RETURN TO PARIS.

ATTEMPTS and attempts were repeated, but the Court of Austria partaking of the slow dignity of that of Spain, evaded still the request for an appointment of the day. The Duke's patience was nearly exhausted, when the Emperor, named the 7th of November, for the public entry, and on

the

the morrow of that day for the public audience. On this occasion, his magnificence was unbounded; and his entry into the City of Vienna, exceeded all other public ceremonies, of this nature, that had occurred in this capital. Sixty nine carriages, with six horses to each, all richly apparelled, his own, or first carriage of state, in which he rode, surpassed in elegance and taste.—The inside lined with crimson velvet, embroidered with gold and gold fringed; the four large pannels, his arms and trophies embossed in gold; the small ones equally charged with his cypher, the horses Bay, with crimson harness set in gold; and aigrettes of crimson feathers, varied with gold fringe.

THE other five carriages of state, that followed the Duke's coach, were elegantly painted and embroidered, and the horses equally sumptuously accounted.

ON the second carriage was handfomely designed, the attributes of peace. It was of blue velvet, and light grey horses.

THE third of green velvet, and dark grey horses.

THE fourth of pale yellow, with six black horses.

THE

THE fifth and sixth, were one of grey and the other of rose velvet, with beautiful Roan horses, to each of them.

To such equipages, were attached, the most brilliant suite.

SIX Couriers, in red velvet jackets, embroidered fancifully and lightly with silver ; hussar pantaloons, and half boots.

FIFTY footmen, in the Duke's own liveries, scarlet cloth, and large silver lace. Hats, embroidered in silver, point *d'Espagne*, and white feathers, with silver hilted swords.

TWELVE Heyduques, with silver staffs.

TWELVE Pages on horseback, cloathed in red velvet and silver ; Governor of the Pages ; his deputy, master of the Horse ; deputies ; Swiss ; twenty-four grooms, some on horseback, others leading of horses caparisoned ; and all dressed, in a degree of proportion, to the whole of the magnificence, exhibited.

To crown and immortalize, the annal of this splendid show, the Ambassador, had ordered all the horses to be shod with silver ; and the crescents of each hoof, joining together, only by a nail loosely fixed on, the shoes were all dropped in the

procession, and the multitude, eager for such spoils, rent the air, in loud acclamations of joy.

ON the next day, the Ambassador had his public audience of the Emperor, the reigning Empress, the Dowager Empress Amelia; and the same pomp reigned. The Duke appeared in his Parliamentary Robes, as Peer of France, and introduced this vestment, for all public and grand occasions. In his palace, were tables laid for five hundred covers. The Gentlemen of the Nuncio, those of the Archbishop of Vienna, with all the officers, appertaining to the Noblemen of the greatest figure in the city, were convened; and the Duke, to afford them more liberty, had every apartment thrown open. He withdrew for the day, and only returned to his Hôtel late at night. This day likewise, was favorable to him, by the sudden departure of the Duke of Riperda.

RICHELIEU, was prepared to hear of the disgrace, that soon happened of Monsieur Le Duc, and of Madame de Prie. He received, therefore, the account with a symptom of regret, unmixed with astonishment. Every day he witnessed the hatred and contempt in which these characters were

at Vienna; and sensible, of the daily progress the Bishop of Frejus was acquiring in the esteem and confidence of the Monarch, he foresaw the latter would seize with avidity, those clamors excited against their administration, to sacrifice them to his ambition.

THE French Ministry, perfectly convinced that the Emperor was not sincere, in the intention of mediating a reconciliation with Spain, Monsieur de Morville, in the name of the King, sent the Duke, an express order, to place no other reliance to effect this purpose, than on the endeavors of the Pope and King of England. The Duke of Richelieu satisfied, he was right in his opinion, had to oppose that of his own Court, relative to this point, and at the same time to counteract the projects of the Court of Vienna. His vigilance and occupation were so incessant, that they caused an alteration in his health. This sedateness, did not suit the activity of the mind, and conduced to derange the habit. He felt obstructions, and in the midst of this uneasiness, his good fortune brought Damis again, the man so much regretted. Without explaining, to the Duke, any reasons for his absence, he only told him, he had

vowed, never to renew or attempt chymical experiments, which might tend to a supposition of his having discovered the secret of the philosopher's Stone. That his sole employment now, was in the study of Botany, analizing various plants, and compounding them together, he had found in their mixture, several virtues, that had enabled him to remedy, to the ease of patients, with effect. The Duke, was happy in obtaining his prescription, and after a few alternatives, he advised the constant use of weak Tea, which the Duke ever found of singular benefit to his constitution. Damis, also favored him with a recipe, for some other medicines; and judging by the labels, describing their different application, affixed to them, in the Duke's Cabinet, there is every reason to conclude, they were administered with equal success.

THE object of the Duke's embassy, being delayed, that style of magnificence he had commended with, and which he was, in reputation, bound to keep up, during his stay, plunged him into an immoderate expence; and not meeting with ease, a credit, amongst the Germans, he had been obliged to have recourse, to mortgaging secretly some

jewels.

jewels. This mortified him exceedingly, and joined to his sentiments and operations being thwarted, and his supplies more scanty, than he was led to expect, would be remitted, he threatened, to demand his recall. The Emperor, likewise, never invited him to assist at any public ceremony, than those of the chapel, which mode of service, was rendered by its tediousness, particularly obnoxious to him ; and altogether feeling his situation embarrassing and unpleasant, he complained loudly to Monsieur de Morville, and the Bishop de Frejus, which procured from the latter, the following letter:

“ Rambouillet, the 4th May, 1726.

“ I have received, Sir, within two days of each other, your letters of the 10th and 17th, that you have done me the honor to address.

“ It is very true, that in the perusal of your dispatches, an observation in the council occurred, that their contents marked an expectation, of being recalled, as being perfectly coincident with your own wish. Monsieur de St. Saphorin intimated the same, and there was every probability of it, two months ago. No displeasure has resulted therefrom, as it was allowed, that in the unpleasant

situation

situation you had found yourself, it was very natural, to be desirous of returning. You may assure yourself, Sir, that from this suggestion, no unfavorable impression has arisen; and if your recall was not thought to be prejudicial, in the present state of affairs, the contempt, the Emperor manifests to the due maintenance of étiquette between the two courts, having only, as his resident here, a simple Chargé d'Affaires; such a neglect alone, would suffice, to occasion the measure.

"ALTHOUGH, we are not acquainted thoroughly, with the abilities of Monsieur de St. Saphorin, we are fully persuaded, that from your intimacy, there is, in what he communicates, a great portion of your own sentiments and reflections, and too great a degree of praise cannot be lavished, on the distinguished manner, you discharge the functions of your office. You have spoken with precision, on the character of the court at which you reside; and you have developed their views in so just a manner, that you have acquired every confidence, to treat with them, in the mode you propose and think best adapted. The expanded hopes, created by the Duke of Riperda, may

have

have excited an inclination for war; but since this Minister's departure, the Emperor, has had reason to imagine he deceived him; and that in fact, the King of Spain was in want of money, for the payment of his troops, and other incidental disbursements. It is to this change of opinion, may be ascribed, the late assurance from the Emperor's Ministers, of no wish for war prevailing, and not to disinclination; for, in the same breath, they neglect not to direct the practice of the most insidious means, in order to disunite us with England.

" THE uneasiness, you express in regard to the delay of your remittances, must proceed from the embarrassment they create. It must be hoped, that money will circulate in greater plenty, than it has of late done; and that the King's treasury, will in consequence, soon be enabled to defray your just demands. It is an effect of your prudence, to conceal the expedient, you have, from this inattention, been driven to the necessity of adopting, and on my part, Sir, I beg of you to rely, the particulars will never be revealed.

" I APPREHEND, that in the public correspondence with you, there is no reserve maintained; for it would be depriving you, of that unlimited con-

fidence,

fidence, you are entitled to command. We are at this moment, in a critical position; and Europe, is too agitated, not to cause the shock to burst some where; an event, I conceive, not very remote.— Permit me, to assure you of the respect and perfect attachment, with which I have the honor to be,
 &c. &c.

"A. H. BISHOP DE FREJUS."

THIS letter, however flattering, did not announce a speedy relief to his finances. He saw with pain, likewise, that notwithstanding the Bishop's declaration of the confidence reposed in the ability of his negotiation, and however he had expressly written, that the measure his court was so intent upon, would originate and take place through the Emperor alone; still, that the favorite idea of treating with Spain, only through the medium of his Holiness and England, was not abandoned.

His Steward, whom he had ordered to procure money for him at any rate, sent him sixty thousand livres; and his good friend the Dutches of ***, gave another proof of her sincere attachment, in a supply of one hundred thousand livres; which, become a widow and mistress of her fortune, she had opportunely, the

power

power of obliging him, with the loan of. These sums alleviating his pecuniary embarrassments, moderated the impatience he felt, in the recollection of Monsieur de Morville's promises, that were constantly repeated, but never performed.

THE Duke's anxiety removed—his activity, supported by the dignity of his conduct and appearance, was renewed with full vigor, and soon he had the pleasure of observing, that matters promised a more favorable aspect. The Counts Zinzendorff, and Stahremberg, in the conversations they held with him, affected more candor ; but Prince Eugene, thinking to intimidate, by the tone he assumed, spoke with warmth against France; at the same time, that he clearly disclosed a rooted animosity against the King of England. The Duke, unaccustomed, to admit of such a strain of language, thought it prudent to dissemble ; and laying no stress on his forbearance, he drew, from his moderation, every advantage, he could have wished. He penetrated, that however the threats of the Prince, he was only excited by his own desire, for war, and in the sentiments delivered, had been guided by the Vice Chancellor, who had some personal views to gratify; and so far, from his

scribing them, as the language of the Emperor, he was confirmed, by their application on this occasion in the judgement he had early formed of him. His discretion in suffering the Prince Eugene to proceed uninterrupted, with the address, he employed in soothing him, placed him more strongly in the Prince's personal esteem.

THE apparent frankness of the other Ministers, he considered as the language of a Court, conveying no meaning ; and however they declared the Emperor's intentions to arm, and to act efficiently in the behalf of Spain, he deemed, and justly, as the event proved, that the new levies would never be employed, in the manner professed.

IN this opinion he received further confirmation, by an unexpected incident. The Emperor, appearing never to think of the Duke, but on religious festivals, invited him at last, to a grand party of pleasure, that the Court were to enjoy upon Sledges. Richelieu, presented himself with his usual magnificence, and the care of attending the Princess of Lichtenstein fell to his happy lot. This lady, one of the most eminent women of the court, in point of beauty, figure, and understanding, was on a friendly footing, and much respected

by

by most of the ministers. The Duke minute in his attention, gallantly profuse of his compliments, soon engaged a similar return from the Princess; and the conversation after this decorous reciprocity, becoming more interested, the Princess commended the zeal, he displayed in the interests of his court, that such conduct, particularly from the obstacles, he had met with, reflected much honor on him, and from the personal concern, he inspired her with, she would with pleasure, afford him her advice.

THE Princess proceeded in assuring him, that the intent of the augmentation of the army, was only ostensible; for it neither was the wish, or consistent with the Emperor's policy, to involve himself in a war with France, how great soever the despicable opinion, entertained of its government, weakness, and financial resources. For, that a stronger instance of the imbecility prevailing in the ministry of that kingdom, could not be afforded, than in the great want of penetration shewn, in conciliating the mediation, of two such powers, as the Pope and England, to co-operate in effecting with Spain, what, it was manifest to all Europe, rested on the will, sole power and pleasure of the Emperor. The Duke of Richelieu, saw with much pleasure, that

these observations accorded entirely with the ideas he had suggested to his Court. More confirmed in the propriety of acting, as he had prescribed, he enforced in his dispatches, the indispensable necessity of their adoption. He replied, to the Emperor's ministers, that France was prepared both in men and money; and possessing those sinews, it was a desire of humanity alone, that had dictated previous negotiation. The ministry, at length, convinced by the force of his reasoning, determinately approved of his system, and liberally acknowledged the keenness and superiority of his penetration and political ability.

THE distinguished preference he had enjoyed with the sex, and the prognostication of rising favor with the monarch, by his selection to so important a trust, naturally raised several enemies, aspiring with him, to equal honors. They had interpreted the delay of the negociation, as a clear indication of want of talent; and concluded, it was unreasonable, to form any expectation, from a business, entrusted to a person, of such youth, dissipation, and inexperience;—the result proved their mistake, and the Duke had the glory of imposing silence to his enemies, as well as to justify the choice of his friends, in their nomination.

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THE Princess of Lichtenstein, who had conferred such obligation, merited well the most grateful return ; and the Duke on whom, such confidence was never ill bestowed, rendered her an undivided homage. Their meetings to obviate any umbrage the ministry might take were obliged to be private ; and proved a delightful scene of relaxation, to the toils of the Cabinet. On those evenings, devoted to such enjoyment, he used to repair to the house on foot, plainly dressed, and without retinue. This precaution, nearly subjected him to an unpleasant adventure. On his way, one evening, to the garden door, where a signal being given, caused the admittance, he was thwarted by three of his servants, drunk, and presuming on the livery they wore, were riotously inclined. The humor took them to impede a person, whom they divined was on some mysterious errand. The Duke knowing them, awaited sometime in a hope they would disperse ; but become impatient, he prepared to punish their insolence, and laying his cane, on the first of them, they exclaim loudly for protection, against the insult done the household of the Ambassador of France. The watch arrive, and the Duke already

surrounded

surrounded, has scarcely time to make himself known to his men and to decamp. Fortunately, no discovery ensued.

THIS agreeable intercourse, was some relief, to the many mortifications, he had experienced in the course of his embassy. His magnanimity however in supporting them, justly was rewarded, by its happy termination ; and Historians of this Æra do the Duke justice, in ascribing the sole merit of its success, to the skill, he displayed in negociation, and that early precision of judgement, he evinced himself, so fully, by an undeviating system of conduct, the complete master of, in theory, as well as practice.

DILIGENT in the prosecution of every means, that he conceived tended to the advancement of his fortune, he took great trouble, in causing the choice for the vacant Cardinal's hat, to be conferred on the Bishop de Frejus. This prelate, was moving slowly on, to the pinnacle of greatness, he had fixed for himself. Bearing no public character, his influence was yet so great as to have occasioned the King's signature, to the exile of Monsieur le Duc ; and in this first instance of authority, the Monarch manifested that dissimulation, so dis-

creditable

creditable to Sovereigns. He imitated the precedent of his Predecessor Lewis XIV. in the disgrace of Fouquet ; and on the day of the Duke's dismissal to Chantilly , affected more than usual kindness. So early a symptom of deception did not raise the preceptor in the people's esteem. No reflection, for the act existed ; on the contrary, all France rejoiced in the tidings of the end of an administration, corrupt, and subjected to the caprice of a woman, in the public sale of every office ; and in the change of which their disappointment had been proportioned to the hope, its commencement, after so disastrous a period, had excited. The dissatisfaction arose from the mode adopted. It was ungracious, unworthy, and conveyed an unfavorable omen, of future expectation.

To this duplicity, the Monarch was made to act another farce, and weak indeed, was the Cardinal's judgement in supposing, that men of sense did not foresee its tendency.

LEWIS XV. proclaimed his intention of suppressing the office of Prime Minister, and in the semblance this was meant to carry, he addressed a letter to the Cardinal de Noailles, entreating, that as he doubted his ability, in the due administration

of the kingdom, he begged, recourse might be had, in prayers to the deity, to inspire him with sufficient energy to so salutary an end.

IMMEDIATE incense was offered in all the Churches for this divine inspiration ; and the people eager to believe every report in favor of their Prince, caught, with their usual credulity, the idea, and were enraptured to think, the blessed moment was arrived, when, from a sovereign all enlightened, was the happiness that concerned them, solely to emanate.

WHILST this Comedy was playing, the modest, and unassuming prelate, was displacing those he considered inimical to his views, to substitute his own dependents ; and all this in the name of the Monarch, who brought up in profound ignorance of the science of government, and averse to serious occupation, could not resolve on a measure without previous advice. Become Cardinal, he threw off the mask, and without the title of prime Minister, exercised in full its trust. He was then 73 years of age, when he attained to this weight of grandeur, and preserved many years after, in the same ruling situation, his faculties unimpaired. The Cardinal de Fleury possessed

not

not those brilliant talents which generally have been found to attach to those, whom the world have stamp'd great Ministers of state. His genius and conduct were happily suited to the nature of the time his sway obtained, and France acknowledged its power with gratitude.

THE kingdom soon wore a more pleasing aspect. Exhausted from Law's system, and no relief intervened in the preceding government, the Cardinal wisely judged, that an uninterrupted tranquillity, with its innate resources, would lead to insure future prosperity; and on their joint effect solely, he depended.

QUIET, and averse to war, he sacrificed even in the opinion of many, the honor and glory of the nation, in their warlike reputation, by securing at any rate the blessings of peace. He was an œconomist of the public money, and, having no extensive plans in view, operating as a constant drain on the revenue, he managed its treasure, with the skill and order of a careful steward. An Enemy to enterprize, and by this prudent rule, incurring therefrom no expence, he was equally guarded in his selection of upright men for the financial department; and

commerce under him prospered, and agriculture, was restored.

IN short, his ministry, though not resplendent, proved him to be actuated by an inflexible probity; and the satisfaction, his measures diffused to the people in general, afford the greatest reflection on his successors, in not following so bright an example.

THE Duke of Richelieu, with joy anticipated the moment of his negociation being ended, to take himself back into France. A disposition to nominate him Ambassador to Spain, had prevailed in the Council, and was suspended only, from awaiting his decision. Without appearing to refuse, he expressed a wish to see Paris first, as his affairs there demanded some personal attention; at the same time, communicating to the Marquis de Silly, and others of his friends, his reluctance to engage again in so active a scene, and that his sole wish centered, in obtaining a good government, where he might indulge his ease, or an important sinecure place at Court. Whilst this was agitating, an apprehension arose, that he still would be detained longer at Vienna, and possibly directed to officiate, as the first

plenipotentiary

plenipotentiary, deputed from France, to the general Congress. Fortunately, his uncaution was removed by the Cardinal vesting himself with this office; although considering it appertained to the Duke's merit, the Minister, in conveying handsomely this testimony, by the ensuing letter, candidly explained his motives for the acceptance; and trusted in Richelieu's liberality to coincide in their propriety.

" 26th June, 1725.

" I reply, with pleasure, Sir, to the letter you honored me with, of the 14th instant, that came enclosed under the signature of Mons. de Bourneville, in the name of His Catholic Majesty; and consequently announced the happy conclusion of the important negociation, you had been entrusted with. I can truly feel the impatience you manifest to quit a place where your presence can no longer be of essential use to the State, and which has proved equally as adverse to your domestic affairs, as prejudicial to your health. It is therefore with great satisfaction, I convey the permission of a Monarch, who, sensible of the value of your services, could not decline the request of so able and faithful a servant. His Majesty, Sir, will immediately decide,

on a proper person, as his representative, to maintain and cement the preliminaries you have signed ; and is likewise intent, on conferring a signal mark of his favor on you, the moment that your leave to withdraw is proclaimed. I think, Sir, without committing my word, that I can give you positive assurances, it is his gracious intention, to honor you with the blue ribband, in the month of January next. But on this subject, I must beg of you, until His Majesty has explained himself more fully, to consider this communication as secret ; and in like manner, have I disclosed it to your agent, the Abbé de St. Remy.—It would have been but natural, Sir, to have nominated you as first plenipotentiary at the Congress to be held : you were certainly the person on whom every eye must have been fixed.—Nevertheless, I beg to submit the three following considerations, trusting to your liberality, in weighing them seriously—First :—I have the honor to confide to you that this nomination will devolve on me; His Majesty thinking that my presence there may accelerate the end proposed; and I could not allow myself to suppose, that being nominated as second, would be flattering to you, or might meet the approbation of your contemporaries here, of equal rank and dignity.”

“ SECONDLY—

"**S E C O N D L Y**—In all likelihood, Sir, the congress will be tedious and fatiguing in it's minutiae, where so many of different nations are assembled to reconcile jarring interests, and of these, most of the members, guided possibly by the genius of their nation, slow and uncommonly deliberate in their proceedings. I conceived therefrom, and I trust rightly, that so dull and laborious a life would not be conciliatory to your feelings, nor in the least be adapted to your taste. I shall be the less sensible of this tedium, as I shall only assist from time to time, when my appearance on any exigency is deemed absolutely requisite."

"**T H I R D L Y**—You are no doubt apprized, that the English do not consider you as favorably inclined, but on the contrary, very hostile to any point that regards them. You would be viewed by them with jealousy, and every proposition, involving their interest, would, suggested by you, produce a delay, and an aversion to conciliate, which it may be in the power of others sooner to obviate."

" You will be kind enough, sir, to give an early attention to the three motives detailed, and to honor me with your determination. I only beg I may receive it, as soon as possible, for no delay ought to

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occur in the nomination pending. If you accept not the intended offer, the King may yet name you, when you will have it in your power to entreat his excusing you on those good grounds you can alledge; and as his Majesty alone will be privy to these reasons, and will certainly admit them, the declining such a dignity, will in the opinion of the public be as honorable to you, as the appointment itself."

"I HAVE promised the Abbé de St. Remy, that I will not be forgetful, in enabling you to leave Vienna, with every honor to yourself; and have desired him to intimate any means, whereby such an intention may be accelerated."

"IN respect to a successor, the Emperor having been three years without any appointment at this Court, I apprehend, the presence of an ambassador will not be deemed necessary, and that you will in consequence be relieved by a minister Plenipotentiary. Such a choice is not easily determined on, and however, his Majesty wishes it incessantly to take place, still it may be attended with some protraction."

"By the effect of your negotiations, you have fully established the ability of your discernment, in

early

early prejudging the dispositions of the court of Vienna, and pronouncing so justly on their eventual tendency."

"THE Marquis de Grimaldi, some days ago, was the bearer of the letter you honored me with, of the 14th April, I beg of you, sir, to assure the Cardinal, his uncle, that I shall, in the person of the nephew, testify every mark of regard and esteem, that I entertain, for so distinguished a character in the church. Permit me also to request, you will signify to Prince Eugene,* my sense of obligation; and that independently of the pleasing remembrance of his kindness and polite attention at Fréjus, I honor in him an innate probity, that rises superior in my esteem, to a consideration of his splendid and eminent qualifications."

"No one Sir, can be more sincerely attached, or hold you in greater respect than, Sir, &c.

LE CARDINAL DE FLEURY."

THE Duke of Richelieu was much flattered to learn the dignity that awaited him,

particularly

* THE Prince had greatly contributed in procuring for him the Emperor's nomination, for his Cardinal's bat.

particularly, as the favor was enhanced, by his being under the age prescribed by the statutes, for an admission into this order. He declined every idea of being included in the commission to congress, centered all his wishes in the pleasure of seeing Paris again, but, as a politician, hesitated till his arrival in that capital, whether he should accede to the offer of being nominated ambassador to Spain. The favor of the young Monarch determined him. He saw in him a conviction of what he had been apprized, and premising he should have a share of ascendancy in the mind of a weak Prince, drew the natural conclusion, that every view, he could aspire to, would be realized. The sequel proves it was not mere illusion; he obtained the secret of ingratiating himself with the Monarch, and had the address, to permanize the footing, he had acquired.

THE king's nomination for the blue ribband reached him in the end of January, 1728; and as the honor of wearing it was permitted, before the installation, the customary notice was given at Vienna to Cardinal Kollonits, on the 24th of February. The persons of dignity who attended the ceremony of his investiture, were Prince

Eugene,

Eugene, the Count de Zinzendorff, the Emperor's Chancellor; and Father Tournemain, a Jesuit, his confessor.—Richelieu then was only thirty-two years of age, and thirty five years, every one knows is the period fixed for a knight's admission into the order of the Holy Ghost. He was publicly received at Versailles, on the first of January, 1729—

The moment, for the Duke's departure from Vienna, approached, and he left it with the regret of those, whose acquaintance he had been honored with. The Princess of Lichtenstein, and Countess of Badia, were among those whose sorrow was sincere; but the Prince Eugene, who had not much relished his attention to the second of those ladies, and latterly expressed a coolness, felt himself debarrailed from the unpleasant feeling, the sight of a person, enjoying a preference with the sex, always creates; and not till some time had elapsed, did he renew his friendship for the Duke with cordiality.

LETTER FROM VOLTAIRE, TO THE MARE-
SCHAL DE RICHELIEU.

(Private.)

You have my hero, seen and performed actions as wonderful as brilliant. Prepare yourself for another as extraordinary, and what regards your consequence and personal merit, ought not to excite your surprize. I confide it to your kindness for me, your discretion, your interests, and your glory.

His Majesty of Prussia, has of late renewed his familiar and confidential intercourse with me. He has avowed an intention of committing suicide, if matters for him do not take a favorable turn. His Sister, the Margravina of Bareith, manifests the same resolution, should her beloved Brother end his glorious career so fatally. Every appearance denotes, that at the moment of my writing, the army commanded by the Prince of Soubize, is in serious contest with the Prussians. Whatever may result from this expected action, every probability unites that it will be reserved to you to terminate the fate of Saxony, and of Brandenburg, in the same manner as you have already put an end, to that of Hanover and of Hesse. You are

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in the noblest career that can fall to the share of man, and the glory will be conferred on you, of effecting a peace with that dignity which has attended your warlike exploits.

It does not belong to me to embroil myself in politics, and I renounce the idea as I would that of aspiring to the Car of the Assyrians. But I must intimate to you that in my last letter to Madame the Margravine of Bareith, I could not refrain from suggesting my ardent wish, that you should, with your duty of General, unite that of legislator and arbitrator: I have been strongly impressed with the idea that if it was intended to confide entirely to the goodness and magnanimity of the King, your interposition would be preferable to any other, in one word I have hazarded this opinion, without giving it as conjecture or advice, but simply as a wish that can neither commit either those written to, or those, whom necessity dictates being spoken of on the occasion. And I communicate this to you without any other motive than that of testifying my earnest zeal, for your personal dignity and honor. You cannot be uninformed that Madame de Bareith had already attempted a negotiation, of which the result was not successful. But

what could not be effected at one time may in another, and every important point has its moment of maturity.

I add hereon no comments. I feel it only requisite to impart to you, that, in the event of his Majesty of Prussia being prevailed upon to submit implicitly every prospect he may entertain, to your discretion, Madame the Margravina, his sister, is the only channel through which this persuasion can be effected.

I trust my letter will not fall either into the hands of the Prussians, or the Austrian hussars. I neither sign, nor date, you well know my hermitage. I only beg of you to reply to me in four words that you have received my letter.

I HAVE had the honor to convey to your protection a letter addressed to the Dukes of Saxe Gotha. More than one army desolates her miserable kingdom, and however gallant you are, you nevertheless contribute to this misery. Favorite of Venus, Minerva, and Mars, it is wonderful you should not completely form the happiness of the
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ALLOW

ALLOW me to add, that, amongst your Aid de Camps, you have a neighbour of mine, a Count D'Ivonne, whom report speaks of as very amiable and very zealous of acquitting himself in his duty towards his General. You have been fortunate in your selection of Aid de Camps and physicians. They are enviously situated, why cannot I, like them, enjoy the happiness of being the attendant on the person of my hero ?

**LETTER FROM HIS MAJESTY, THE KING
OF PRUSSIA, TO THE MARESCHAL DE
RICHELIEU.**

Dated Rôte, 6th September, 1757.

I AM sensible Sir, that you have not been honored with the trust reposed in you for the purpose of Negotiation. Some greater effect is expected, from that valor and ability, which has displayed itself for years. Yet thinking, that the talents of that great Minister the Cardinal de Richelieu, in making treaties favorable to his nation, may have descended to his Nephew, I hesitate not to propose peace through the mediation, of a person, entitled to the esteem, of those even unacquainted with him. I cannot be informed of the nature of your instructions, but

I conclude that your sovereign, relying on the progress of your motions, has vested you with powers, and conded the terms, it may please him, to restore peace to Germany.—In this persuasion I address Monsieur Delchetet to you, whom you may treat with, on what may be the intentions of your Court, in the freest and most unreserved manner.

HOWEVER the events of this year ought not to create a hope, that your Court retained any favorable impression for my interests, yet I cannot be perluaded that a friendly footing, which had lasted for sixteen years, can altogether have been so soon effaced. Some latent spark must have remained, if I judge of the nature of other men's minds by my own. Be it Sir, any how, I speak frankly, and declare it is my wish, the king your master, should be the arbiter of my fate, in preference to any other Sovereign. If you are not therefore vested with instructions relative to the propositions that will be made towards the designed purpose of a pacification, I beg of you Sir, without delay to request such, and to communicate to me their purport. The hero to whose fame statues have been consecrated at Genoa, who has immor-

talized

talized himself by the conquest of Minorca, in despite of the greatest obstacles, and who at this moment is on the point of subjugating Lower Saxony, cannot add more to such renown, than by his glorious endeavors of effecting a general peace for Europe. This Sir, beyond a doubt, will at this juncture be considered far the most important of your laurels. Adopt, Sir, this intention; pursue it with that activity and spirit the characteristic of your measures, and assure yourself, no one will acknowledge readier the happiness it will diffuse, and the sense of the obligation, than,

Sir,

Your faithful friend,

FREDERIC.

REPLY FROM THE MARESCHAL DE RICHE-LIEU, TO THE KING OF PRUSSIA.

SIRE,

Considering the eminent superiority that your Majesty possesses in every degree, I am fully satisfied it would be much more to the advantage of my Prince, that I should negotiate, instead of opposing in arms the efforts of such an Hero; and

no

no persuasion is requisite to convince me, that my Sovereign would feel greater gratification in my ability to contribute towards a general peace, than by a momentary triumph he could derive from the effect and splendor of any victory, which might be obtained. But I have to inform your Majesty, that hitherto, I am neither vested with instructions, or know the means that could be devized to this salutary end.

I SHALL instantly dispatch a Courier, to render an account of the opening that your Majesty has been graciously pleased to afford me; and on his return no time will be lost in communicating to your Majesty, the result of what has been acceded to by me, in consequence of the conference held with Mr. Delchetet.

I OWE great obligation to your Majesty, for the favorable opinion entertained of me, professed by a Monarch the admiration of Europe, and commanding, if I may use the expression, my particular esteem. It is my ardent desire to merit his further commendation, by earnestly using every endeavor that may tend to the accomplishment of your Majesty's wish, for whose happiness and

prosperity

prosperity I am impressed with the deepest sentiments of veneration.

RICHELIEU.

LETTERS OF MONSIEUR DE RICHELIEU,
DURING HIS EMBASSY TO VIENNA, TO
THE DUTCHESS OF ***.

Vienna, the 4th of August, 1725:

I HAVE already imparted to you, my dear friend, the little attention, shewn to me at this Court; and it requires that exertion of spirit, I possess, to maintain in any degree the respect due to the dignity of an Ambassador of France at Vienna. The Ministers are cool, reserved, and mysterious, and hitherto, notwithstanding the art I have practised, I have not been able to penetrate into their intentions. The Emperor carries himself with an air of importance that gives to all his Court a tone of authority, which is difficult to endure. A scrupulous etiquette, extended to matters the most trifling, is observed by him on every occasion, and I am threatened with a course of masses and prayers, that would in subjecting himself to, even startle a capuchin. But I am resigned to the whole, and since I am charged with

this negociation, I have more self love, than not to use my utmost endeavors to bring it to an issue.

THE Duke of Riperda is a puppy, who I like the less the more I see of him. The part that I am instructed to act is not that which suits me. Nothing is to be gained by temporizing, that is my advice.

IN regard to Riperda, no dread can be entertained of his talent in negociation. The ministry may apprehend a rupture with Spain, but I make myself responsible that nothing he attempts will obstruct our views; and in the event of its taking place, it certainly will not have been caused by any schemes of his formation.

They believe us here to be destitute of men and money, and they entertain no great consideration for our government. They do not like Monsieur the Duke, and I find that he will be the victim, if he does not act with more energy. I have communicated my sentiments to Madame de Prie, who treats them lightly. I wish, my prediction may not be verified, but I fear the result. They libel him in this City, and such contemptuous treatment will work its intention in France, particularly

if Monsieur de Frejus, resolves upon commencing the career, I am convinced, he aspires to.

I AM assiduous in attention to Madame de Badiani, who, as I mentioned before, has a complete sway, and rules Prince Eugene as she chooses; I shall not be wanting in endeavor to please her, and flattery and perseverance may carry me to the discovery of some secret. It is the only channel I see open to success; for, in the Court, such is the mystery and secrecy pervading it, that nothing from that quarter is to be hoped; my spies are poor wretches, and I am destitute of information. The state must commend in me this sacrifice, and my infidelity will be ascribed by you as a devoted act to my country, which, in a person so patriotic as yourself, must claim and will meet with pardon. If the Countess is impenetrable, her political talents must be very superior. A woman, whose mind is susceptible, when once the impression is made, soon loses that restraint so requisite in matters of state, and discloses without reserve, what the object of her favor wishes. In this, my success, are my hopes founded, of my Embassy proving useful. Be assured, nevertheless, I shall ever remain your best Friend.

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TO

TO THE DUTCHESS OF ***.

Vienna, 30th August.

YOUR letters are a great comfort to me, my dearest friend, especially in a country where I find little pleasure, and where I am counteracted in whatsoever I am willing to do. M. de Morville continues to be opiniated in rejecting every project to bring forward a reconciliation with Spain, in concert with the Emperor, wishing no other mediation should operate than that of the King of England, on whose endeavors he rests great hopes. He pretends the Emperor is certainly averse to it, that his interest lies in opposing it, and his reason for doing so is, that he has a design to excite suspicions between the Kings of France and Spain; that this information should be my guide, and I must act thereon to deceive M. de St. Saphorin.

THIS mode of action is prescribed as one essential part of my instructions, and I see with pain the impolicy of the ground adopted. I am determined to write so frequently, that I trust in the end the purport of my letters will be attended to. I well know the difficulty of eradicating notions and systems Ministers have formed, from which they seldom are induced to depart.

I SEE very often the Prince of Eugene, on whose account the jealousy of the other ministers arises—We have had a warm altercation in opinion on our government, which I praised very much, because I saw he had no consideration for it. He even expressed himself with a sort of contempt, which, as a faithful and loyal subject to my sovereign, it did not become me to permit. I must own that in some part of his observation, he was founded, which obviated my silence, that he might not, by it, be too positively confirmed in his idea, which was evident, otherwise he would have been, from the sentiments he disclosed. I have told you before that no dread of our power exists, and I am convinced more than ever, that to secure a peace, if peace is the object of our Court, that the most vigorous preparations for war, must without delay, be set in motion.

THE Court is as gloomy and austere as ever, and were it not for the constancy of my avocations, I should fall a sacrifice to melancholy. But I am resolved to succeed, and there is no spring that I do not exert to bring my negociation to this desirable end.

HAVE

HAVE you seen M. de Silly? He writes me word that M. de Morville is inclined in my favor. But he is so slow in deciding upon any matter referred to his department, that the delay in the promise he has made me of pecuniary supplies, have driven me to have recourse to expedients to supply my wants, that are not altogether proper and correct in an Ambassador.

I AM always in conference with the Ministers. Hitherto nothing has resulted from them, but agitation of mind, and unnecessary vexation. I trust that the next Courier, will be the bearer of more favorable dispatches, in the mean while, consider my attachment as inviolable.

TO THE DUTCHESS OF ***.

My fine imaginary speculation with the Countess of Badiani, has not been attended with that success I hoped for. It appears, that Prince Eugene's communications with her, are more trivial and personal, than relating to matters of any importance; or that if she has been informed on any

serious

serious points in agitation, she possesses the firmness of mind not to disclose, what has been enjoined.

OUR Court, I am sorry to remark, are acting with unaccountable timidity, at a season particularly, and in an event, where a necessity exists to determine what part to adopt without delay. In the mean while, I exert myself, as much as possible, and assuming a certain tone of superiority, both in my actions and discussions, I flatter myself something may result therefrom, though I feel truly disgusted in viewing such unprofitable labor hitherto.

L'ABBE' de St. Remy, desires me to commend him to your recollection.

TO THE DUTCHESS OF ***.

Vienna, February 28th, 1728.

I WAS honored with the Blue Ribband on the 24th of this month, a Dignity you so much wished me to obtain. My reception into his Majesty's orders, and the proofs, requisite to be exhibited on the occasion, were made before the Cardinal of Konitz,

Konitz,

Konitz, in the presence of Prince Eugene, Count Zinzendorff, and Father Tournemain. It is now my intention to hasten as much as possible my return to France, for I must own to you, without that perseverance and anxiety to succeed, which have been the spur to my actions, I could never have brought the negociation entrusted to me, to the happy end, it has been attended with; you well know how I have been thwarted, and as I can place every confidence in the courier, by whom this will be conveyed, I shall answer without reserve those parts of your letter, to which you require an explanation.

You will see I obey the first by returning to France; but in regard to pursuing the career, I have entered upon, such are the many unpleasant circumstances attending that line, as to deter me in future from thinking of it. An Ambassador, if he wishes for quiet in his situation, must always act up to the explicit dictates and ideas suggested by a Minister, giving up those that his own good sense and local experience point out, as the most eligible. Judge if such a mode of action corresponds with my disposition. I set out, determined to allow of no opinion, which I might think erroneous, without at least remonstrating against its palpable effects, and

from

from this resolution, I found more difficulty in combating the instructions I received from the Court, than in enforcing with the Ministers on the spot the aim designed. How often have you known me at open War in discussing points of this nature with the Cardinal and Mr. de Morville?—Nothing, but insisting as I did, that their system was wrongly conceived, and that I pledged myself for the success of my own, could ever have brought them to the conclusion, that the one I had laid down for my guidance was just, yet both these Ministers were well and friendly disposed to me; but as men acting in that character, it was necessary they should have a plan, and where is the Minister who yields his conception, to that of an individual subordinate to him? When this comes in contrast, no tie of friendship is considered, and it is these eternal differences of sentiment, that disgust, and actuate me to renounce stations encumbered with such difficulty. I have labored with every zeal; I will even say with inclination, I may even take upon myself to assert, that my labor has not been inefficient, and nevertheless whilst so employed, what counteracts had I to parry? In a kingdom where the greatest suspicion and discontent against us reigned, I have

been left to my own resources, to supply my pecuniary exigencies, under borrowed and feigned names; I have found myself obliged to deposit effects, to raise means for the moment, and have seen the time very distant, before they could be withdrawn. Frequent, are the instances, in which, assurances, I was told to rely on, have failed, and in short, I can, without assuming, declare, that to myself alone am I indebted for the satisfactory termination of my negociation.

AFTER having so completely effected its pur-
port, it was natural enough in me to expect, that I
should be selected as first Plenipotentiary to the
Congress. But the Cardinal intimates it is his Ma-
jesty's intention to nominate him, and concludes
therefrom, it could not suit me to act a secondary
part, insinuating with address that even in the
commission of first, he could not but apprehend so
tedious and formal a business as it was likely to be,
would not be congenial to my inclination. Between
ourselves, I am not sorry to be dispensed from such
a charge; but I do think, that a man, for whose ele-
vation to a Cardinal's hat, I had been so zealous and
serviceable might have left it in my option to
accept; and with regard to the public utility, I

should

should certainly have been more able to agitate such matters that will be treated of in person, from having so long been conversant in them, and being on the spot, and well informed in respect to the characters of the parties.

His eminence has hinted to me, that I am designed for the embassy to Spain, and certainly of all stations of this splendor and respect, it would be the most flattering to me. However conditions must be annexed to it to urge my acceptance, and according as I find circumstances on my return to the capital, I shall be induced to make my election.

I THINK however upon reflection, that the wisest and most suitable situation for me, would be, that of a good sinecure at court, in an Office of credit, that attached me near the Monarch's Person. From what yourself relates, and what I gather from others, it is pretty clear, that his habit will lead him ever to be in the tuition of others, and I should consider myself, as unfortunate, if I did not obtain a certain footing in a mind of that tendency. I have no ambition to be distinguished as a branch of the ministry, because they must all derive from that venerable tree, the Cardinal, and I conceive his influence so established, that it would be easy for him to

lop off any of the branches, that gave him umbrage. Men of this description are like travellers that suddenly appear and as speedily disappear ; without any responsible charge, and in favor with majesty I shall create to myself a certain influence, and shall not dread the downfall, attendant on ostensible situations. I shall in time advance my pretensions to a government, and a favorite at Court, many obstacles, arising from provincial administration, will not be suggested to me. I look in short to reign absolute, for I would resign the best of situations, were I to hold it subject to perpetual controul.

Thus you have my system detailed, and it is the Goal alone that I shall be anxious to attain. When that course is run, I shall expect, as the summit of my wishes the Báton of Maréchal : you once announced to me that you had dreamt of seeing me decorated with the Blue Ribband. That dream has been realized, and may another, agreeable to your wishes and mine, be the forerunner, and conduct me to the hope, I entertain.

With every regard, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) RICHELIEU.

LETTERS FROM THE DUTCHESS OF ***,
TO THE DUKE OF RICHELIEU.

Paris, 1716.

I RECEIVED with much pleasure, my dear friend, the letter, you have favored me with, and I expected to have seen you at Mantes, as you had promised, but it seems other avocations have detained you at Paris. I must be void of sensibility, if I did not experience a certain jealousy for these new attachments, but I well know, I must content myself to see you inconstant, that I may not altogether be deprived of enjoying, at times, the happiness of your agreeable society.—Madame de Brancas has informed me that you were intent on great matters; I trust whatever your pursuits may be, they will turn out more successful, than those, which at present occupy the attention of the Court. I foresee these will not come to any good end, as I think the Regent daily declines in the popular opinion. I admit, he should sacrifice to his pleasures, but in such a situation as he is placed, surely, the greatest portion of his time should be dedicated to the affairs of the State. In truth, his predilection in favor of such a creature as Dubois, is inexcusable; and indeed, others, of whom his household is composed, are not much better,

A PROPOS,

APPROPOS, a rumor obtains of a certain adventure between you and the Cardinal, whose jealousy of the preference you merit is well known. Take my advice; be circumspect; you must be sensible of the unlimited power, with which he governs, and cannot you seek other connections, than those which he is desirous of retaining? In so young a man as you are, there is a great deal of frivolousness, and little credit in supplanting a man of his stamp; besides, the detriment, which such a conduct causes to your political interests, and natural wishes of preferment.

If you do not come soon and join me, send your man of confidence to me, with every particular regarding yourself. I now hope, my friend, that since you are become an academician, your letters will be more correct, both in style and orthography. The last of them was really undecypherable, and had it not been for those sentiments, which I am convinced you entertain for me, I must have been left in doubt, to guess at its contents.

WERE you of the last party given by the Regent? It is said, that it perfectly accorded with others of that Prince's, wherein an impropriety, and a perfect forgetfulness of that self-respect, which

ought

ought to have governed individuals, eminently bore the sway. I like not the thoughts of your being numbered in this circle, however sensible I am, of the necessity there is of paying assiduously your court to the reigning power.

Paris, 22d May, 1725.

I HAVE received your letter, my dear Duke, and can well conceive the disgust you feel in being in a country where you are a stranger, and where your situation is liable to unpleasant reflections, yet I cannot readily believe, that you are thought of in the light of a spy. Your rank of a Peer, ought to have protected you against such suspicion; and if candor alone was to judge, it ought not to be surmised, that you could have been selected for an office, which belongs alone to the lowest of the people to undertake.—Tranquilise your mind, and be patient; and be assured, that sooner or later justice will be rendered to your conspicuous merit.

I DINED yesterday with the Bishop of Frejus, who is much interested in your behalf. He is ei-

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ther the most upright, or the most ambitious of men.—He appears not to covet the station of Prime Minister, yet he enjoys all the preponderance which that station gives.—The King is more and more devoted to him, and it is within his grasp to rule in place of the master, with as full a power. I spoke of you, and with that ardor, you may judge, which true attachment dictates. He concurred with me in exhorting you to await patiently the event of time, and promised to alleviate your distress, by speaking to Mons. de Morville, to supply your wants.—You are reported to be profuse of your finances: But I maintained to the Bishop, it was suitable in an Ambassador Extraordinary, to appear with pomp and splendor, and in his consideration of the grandeur of the Monarch, he agreed with me in the propriety of your assuming such dignity.

His Majesty appears to entertain for the Queen a constant attachment; it is to be hoped, he will be the last to perceive that her years exceed his: but on this point, I agree in opinion with you, deeming him like a school Boy, who thinks that sweetmeats can never satiate, and yet ends in holding them in utter aversion. Between ourselves what a miserable alliance.

ALL the women, whom I associate with, are loud in your praise, and the Mareschale de Villars takes the lead of them. Since you have been vested with the title of Ambassador, every person values himself more on the attention you paid him; as to myself I wanted no new dignity to encrease my attachment; or to convince you, I flatter myself how solely you are in my esteem.

Paris, Sept. 1725.

You pass your time, my dear Duke, you say, in a melancholy manner, and here we are in perpetual fears. Madame de Prie is every day by her conduct adding to her enemies; and the voice of the public accuse her, of sacrificing the interests of the kingdom to her insatiable avarice and desire of amassing. One charge is direct, which is the monopoly of grain, in concert with the provost of merchants and her cousin D'Ombreval. The people were much discontented at the latter's acting in the police, from the subserviency manifested to his cousin's commands, and the multitude that assembled lately at the Town Hall, were near proceeding to exire-

mities against him. His removal was stipulated and acquiesced in; and from an unfit Lieutenant de Police, he will no doubt be transformed into a bad judge, for the department of Tours, to which he is appointed. Our Comptroller General Dodon, was on the point likewise of losing his place, and had his resignation been required, D'Angervilliers was the person spoken of for the vacancy.

WHATEVER were your thoughts of Madame de Prie, take my word, that she will be the ruin of Monsieur Le Duc; his capacity is not great enough to palliate, by some noble actions, the different errors, which the views of his creatures eternally lead him to commit; neither does his discernment extend to weigh the consequences of those acts. The new impost of one fiftieth, which even has not succeeded in the amount hoped to be derived from it, operates much to his discredit, and I assure you, he is not more spared in observation against him here, than at Vienna. The Mareschal de Mercy and the Sieur Jacquemin, are those who manœuvre against him at the latter place.

THE Bishop of Frejus detests Madame de Prie, and it is clearly ascertained, his prejudice,

against

against her, has been inculcated to his pupil; for a few days ago the Monarch received her very ungraciously.

I AM well informed that a plan is in agitation against the Bishop, but unless the Duke hastens to carry it into execution, I doubt, if M. de Frejus will not have the upper hand of him. The Duke seems too confident; he values himself upon his rank of first Prince of the Blood, and his situation of Chief Minister; these considerations, he thinks, exalt him to that eminence, which, no effect of enmity can reach, and swayed by this opinion, he acts accordingly. The Bishop, on the contrary, secure in the attachment of his Pupil, slowly moves on like a tortoise, certain to attain the end he has in view. He causes to be remarked the errors which his rival falls into. He allows none to escape his penetration, and affects to discuss them, as if he was guided by no self interest in their effect. His indifference in not appearing to aspire to any trust, joined to the humiliation he assumes, are to me a sure presage in a Prelate, that he meditates the overthrow of the person who governs, and to concentrate the sole power of administration in himself.

and assure yourself, that on a sudden, when it is least expected, my prediction will be verified.

He has with that talent and address so manifest in the Church, drawn to his party all those, whom, the late diminution of pensions have rendered discontented, and the sagacity, with which he proceeds, cannot fail to be successful.

Paris.

You are perfectly right in the trust, you entertain, of making your public entry, as soon as possible, and I agree with you in the propriety of sparing no expence to render it brilliant. If so unfavorable an opinion is conceived of our Government, it is not amiss to assume an exterior, that dazzles from its magnificence : the people are slaves to pomp and show, and where the dignity of a monarchy is represented, those, attached to its grandeur, are flattered in the mode adopted by the executive Servant of the Crown. I have seen your Steward, who imparted to me his regret, in not possessing any assets, to supply your immediate

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wants ; but it is his intention to borrow, and comply with your wishes, in less than the space of two months.

Mons. de Morville is delighted with your conduct towards the Duke of Riperda, who, from the impertinent vanity of entering into competition with you, has equally excited my contempt. I was happy however, that he proved not of so impetuous a disposition as yourself ; and that the gravity and phlegm of the Spaniard made him overlook, what, with others would have become a serious matter of personal consideration.

I HAVE received a second letter from you, which, from the ardor of its expressions, I cannot figure to myself, was designed for me. A hero of romance could not address his princess in a more Quixotical style ; and I cannot arrogate to myself their application.—Conceive how ridiculous is your situation, if you have really been mistaken in the direction. What reproaches await you. Indeed, my friend, I feel for the vivacity of your disposition, and if the epistle was for me, I must attribute it to some happy moment, and regret, that I cannot personally be the bearer of its answer.

WHAT

WHAT you are pleased to intimate of your progress with the Countess of Padiani, carries no serious alarm to my mind. I have seen you often wavering in attachment, but the esteem, I bear you, is too strongly rooted, not to have accustomed me to view your partiality to other objects, with a forgiving eye. But, could I have flattered myself to retain you solely to my care, the present opportunity was too advantageous not to admit of some latitude, or to blame the effect of your proposed affiduity. If you see, in the Countess, the means of accelerating the object of your negociation, I shall, as a true friend solicitous for your glory, approve of your pursuit. Aspire and succeed in pleasing her : my attachment to you will be wounded, but, in the consideration of its not being the first sacrifice of the kind that I have been obliged to make, and the consoling idea how much will redound to your credit from the result, it behoves me to be silent.

HER Majesty is pregnant, and this diffuses a general joy; the King is quite delighted in the thought of being soon blessed with an heir, and his attentions to her, are unceasing. Yet in this state, she has been desired not to meddle with the affairs of Government, and no one is ignorant, but this injunc-

tion proceeds from the Bishop, which evinces his ascendancy on his pupil, and clearly manifests to what an height his future power will extend.

If M. Le Duc is spoken of lightly at Vienna, I can assure you, he is not more favorably treated at Paris, and I agree with you, that he cannot long resist the efforts to supplant him. The public odium, were I in his place, would much less, be a source for apprehension, than the constant intrigues at Court to supersede his influence. His Majesty displays a weak and timid mind, and in my observation, seems not to possess a criterion, which forms the basis of any character. I believe he has the desire of doing well, but as he knows nothing nor is informed of any thing passing, he floats in constant doubt, and requires an arm to lead and support him. He takes much to the pleasures of the chace, and most persons think, that this tendency will be the most conspicuous feature of his disposition. Burn my letter from this sentence, which, my friendship alone for you has induced me to impart.

I MET at Madame D'Egmont's with Mademoiselle de Charolois, who talked a great deal about you, and in a strain that did not please me. She seemed to feel a delight in relating a circum-

stance,

stance, that your enemies wish to establish as a fact, viz. of your having been so indiscreet at Vienna, as to have imparted secrets of state to many women there.—I know not what reason she has to complain of you, but certain it is, that she was not in the least sparing of her censure. Tired to death to hear her exclaim so bitterly against my friend, I could not command myself without telling her the report was wholly improbable, that your public conduct had manifested great ability and circumspection, and that if it was possible to suppose you could have forgotten yourself so far, she ought to be the last person not to conceal your faults, since her attachment to you had been too visible, to have escaped notice.—The circle that was present immediately adopted my sentiments, and concurred that her recent professions, combined with the present tendency of her discourse, evidently were founded in contradiction.

I WRITE to you in volumes, but the time passes agreeably that is so employed. Adieu my friend.

Versailles,

Versailles, 15th June, 1726.

WHAT I had long predicted my dear friend, has been verified. The Bishop de Frejus triumphs, and Monsieur the Duke is exiled to Chantilly. The public generally are delighted with the change, but the manner in which this revolution has occurred, does not accord altogether with the sense of men of honor and integrity.

M. DE FLEURY had long since formed and established his plan of proceeding. He charged Monsieur le Duc of being the sole cause of the calamities with which the kingdom was afflicted, and intimated to his Majesty, that he could not resolve on a measure so agreeable to his people, as the dismissal of so incapable and so flagitious a Minister. The King in the habit of lending a favorable ear to his Tutor, and considering him as his oracle, willingly suffered himself to be led on this occasion, and appeared much pleased in the thought of preferring to a Prince of his blood, the person to whom he owed his education. But what excites the disgust attending this measure is the unnecessary dissimulation, with which it has been fraught.

THE very day of the exile of M. Le Duc, and of those days which preceded it, whilst it was in agitation, the Monarch graciously evinced towards him, many proofs of the strongest attachment and attention. The Minister never thought himself so greatly in favor ; he even said to him as he was entering his carriage to go to Rambouillet, “ *I expect the pleasure of seeing you this Evening,* ” and at this very moment he was sensible that he had just signed the order for his banishment.

A PART of the Court have been astonished. Such duplicity at so early an age ! this might announce a character, from the effect of which the greatest apprehension might result, if I, as well as others did not believe, that this impulse was not natural, but founded by the suggestions and dictates of the bishop. I can scarcely disclose what forms my private opinion on an act so justly condemnable. It certainly is initiating a Prince, into a practice, unworthy the mind of a Sovereign ; the new Minister, it is said, possesses, an intention of avenging himself, on all those who were attached to the administrations of M. Le Duc, whose situations will be forfeited ; and the public seem not much gratified by the alteration, foreseeing no great good that

will

will derive to them, from the reins being entrusted into the hands of a prelate, whose characteristic is timidity, and whose devotion to the will of a confessor and partiality to other servants is well known.

BE careful of being profuse of your regard and attentions towards him, for assure yourself, that he will be the *primum mobile* of every thing. The Queen's influence declines daily, and Madame de Mortemart has informed me, that it is her husband's opinion, the Bishop denotes in every step he takes, the most determined resolution of diverting her from the consideration of all affairs of state.— In her own household there is as little appearance that any thing will be left to her to regulate, what then will be her avocations.

WE are thus again in the hands of the Clergy for every resource that is to be hoped. I am happy to observe that an inclination already prevails to attend to what you recommend the adoption of. The mind of the public is occupied in speculative ideas on the effect of a voyage, which the Count de Zinzendorff makes to Munich, to carry, it is said, subsidies for the Elector. You have met with great applause from the penetration you have discovered, by suggesting the intention of a camp being formed

in Silesia. Indeed, I think you, such a favorite with the public, that I can discern only determined enemies who are insensible of the justice rendered you, which you truly merit.

A report gains ground that Mademoiselle de Charolois is intent on attaching the King to her person, and in the mean while, is not insensible to the attentions of the Count de Clermont.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

ERRATA TO VOLUME I.

Page	2, line 7, from bottom, for initiated	read	initiated,
—	21, — 6, — — —, for Fermacor	read	Fermacor,
—	28, — 2, — — —, for del.	read	in.
—	35, — 3, from top, for Hochstet	read	Hochstet,
—	— 5, — — —, for bas	read	bid.
—	39, — 6, — — —, for alternations	read	alternatives,
—	— — —, from bottom, for exhaustible	read	inexhaustible,
—	47, — 9, from top, for foresok	read	forsoak,
—	— 12, from bottom, for fuation	read	situation,
—	48, — 8, from top, for ligitimating	read	legitimizing,
—	— 9, — — —, for appanage	read	appendage,
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—	69, — 1, from top, for cicles	read	circles,
—	77, — 1, — — —, for viros	read	viroes,
—	— 4, — — —, for nad	read	bad,
—	— 11, from bottom, for point	read	paint,
—	80, — 4, from top, for importunity	read	importunity,
—	94, — 9, from bottom, for graritude	read	gratitude,
—	102, — 7, from top, for Monarchs	read	Monarch's,
—	113, — 2, — — —, for applause	read	applaud,
—	115, — 7, from bottom, for d-fination	read	difinition,
—	124, — 2, from top, for ntercourse	read	intercourse,
—	136, — 9, from bottom, for were	read	where,
—	188, — 10, from top, for alternatives	read	alternatives,
—	203, — 5, — — —, for centured	read	centering,
—	224, — 10, from bottom, for circumfiances	read	circumstances.